BULLETIN - Blue set vol. II.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Blue cover set in 3 volumes

I. From October 1964, Vol. I, No. 1,
To January 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 2.

II. From March 1972, Vol. VII, No. 3,
To May, 1980, Vol. XVI, No. 4.

III. From October, 1980, Vol. XVII, No. 1,
To August, 1991, Vol. XXIV, No. 3.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

March 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 3

THE BURGLARS WERE CORNERED HERE

The Seaverns' Barn stood on the river side of Park Road (known in '92 as East Newton Street) a short distance south of the railroad trestle. The land on which it stood is now part of the Metropolitan District Commission's Memorial Golf Course.

~~SIX~~ 8 DECADES AGO
THE BOSTON EVENING RECORD (Price "one cent")
PUT THIS WESTON STORY ON PAGE ONE.

CORNERED IN A BARN.

WALTHAM OFFICERS CAPTURE FOUR BURGLARS
Exciting Midnight Chase Through Town of Weston.
Found Sleeping in a Haymow, Fully Armed.

Waltham, March 3, 1892—"The neighboring town of Weston was visited early this morning by a daring gang of burglars and a store entered, a safe blown open, and the entire corner of a building wrecked by the rascals. The arrest of four men during the night under very suspicious circumstances and having in their possession revolvers and jimmies was the commendable work of Waltham officers, and all believe the parties to be guilty of the outrage, although each stoutly maintains his innocence.

"Weston has been singularly unfortunate for the past two years, and for several weeks last year a perfect reign of terror pervaded the quiet little town because of several incendiary fires. The place visited this morning was the grain store of Keefe Bros. on Central Avenue in the center of the town. Having forced the front door with a jimmy, the office was entered. The burglars placed a quantity of powder around the edge of the safe door; it was blown open, the shock completely wrecking the office furniture, blowing all the glass out of the windows and tearing out the door and even the door and window casements. In fact, the entire corner of the structure was wrecked by the terrific explosion which was heard for a long distance.

"W. T. Burrage heard the explosion, and rousing Officer Smith, they learned the cause, and telephoning from Dr. Jackson's to the central police station at Waltham, Serg't. McKenna and Officer Carney immediately started for the scene three or more miles away. They looked the ground over and, believing that the gang had secreted themselves somewhere in the vicinity, returned to Waltham where the entire force, with the exception of two men, were organized into a searching posse.

"Weston was reached soon after and with the assistance of Selectman Jennison and several Weston officers the men were tracked for two miles to a barn on the Seaverns farm. Entrance was easily effected and lying sound asleep on a mow of hay four men were discovered. Lights were produced and the men were placed under arrest. Hidden away in the hay were found jimmies and revolvers for each one of the men.

"The men were brought to Waltham, and in the district court this morning each was held in $3000 . . . They found in the pockets of one of the gang a handful of money and trinkets, but it is not known what was obtained from Keefe's safe."

A somewhat fuller and more detailed account appeared in the Waltham Daily Press of March 3, 1892—just sixty years ago. Burrage (William T.) who heard the explosion was sleeping in the building to the east, above his dry goods store. He dressed and rushed to the residence of Constable J. M. Smith who stayed at the store while Burrage ran to Dr. Jackson's house to phone the Waltham police. Sergeant McKenna and Officer Carney lost no time in getting to Weston and, suspecting where the robbers had gone after the break, they aroused Selectman Jennison to obtain authority to make the search. "Immediately after four o'clock Sgt. McKenna, taking with him the entire night force that went off duty at that time, drove to the old Seaverns place (now owned by Mr. Blake) at the south part of town. Here they were met by Selectman Seaverns and Officers Smith and Barker. The officers entered the barn and there found under the hay asleep four men who were immediately arrested . . . Officer Carney made a second visit to the barn and after a short search found drills, a can of powder, fuses, bits, a tube used for

SCENE OF THE CRIME

Tenants of this long wooden structure on the south side of the old Boston Post Road in Weston's downtown section, have changed frequently during the past sixty years. In 1892, the Keefe Grain Company occupied the eastern portion at the left of the picture where now are located a greeting card shop and travel agency. The old Weston Hand Laundry, which succeeded it, has in turn been superseded by today's barber shop, taxi office, and printing establishment. The western end (right) long since ceased to be residential. First changed to a drug store with an ice cream plant downstairs, it is now a television and electrical store. At the extreme right, the old village blacksmith shop of Mr. Milledge Crouse can be seen behind a horse-drawn contraption that needs no explanation!

blowing powder into the safe, two revolvers and other portions of the ordinary outfit of a burglar . . . The safe was a heavy Morse and Ireland one weighing nearly three tons. The door was blown completely off and the cash box inside, containing about $20, was carried away. A window in the loft over the office was also broken, and the entire damage to the building amounts to some $25 . . . The officers have little doubt they have secured the guilty parties. If so it is a piece of work rarely equalled for celerity . . ."

Professional rivalry born of a zeal for recognition, entered the picture, for the following commentary appeared in the Daily Press of March 11, 1892!

TRADITIONAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER
THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL TWENTIETH
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AT SEVEN

This is your only notice; mail reservations today

The most enjoyable and worthwhile feature of each year's program has always been our Charter Anniversary Dinner. This year's event will be held in the Senior High School Cafeteria. Promptly at seven o'clock on the evening of Thursday, April 20th, members will be served a sumptuous dinner arranged by our Hospitality Chairman Mrs. Reginald D. Wells, and her large committee. Decorations will be appropriately historical. For such a large gathering it is important that reservations be made well in advance of the occasion. You are urged to fill in and mail the reservation blank below as promptly as possible. The deadline is Monday, April 17th.

At the conclusion of the dinner, Program Chairman Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, will present two most talented speakers. Mrs. William B. Floyd, a charter member who is currently chairman of the Weston Historical Commission, will outline the all-important work of the Commission and will point out several vital areas where all Society members can be unusually helpful. In view of many threats to our landmarks, her talk will be most timely. She will be followed by Mr. Earle G. Shettleworth who holds a graduate fellowship granted by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, in the American and New England Studies Program at Boston University. He will give an illustrated talk of which several of our directors who have heard it, speak most highly. A member of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Mr. Shettleworth's message will be of great inspiration and interest.

Mark April 20th on your calendar and plan to be with us.

. . . . . .

Tear here.

Weston Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 343
Weston, Mass. 02193

Please reserve _____ places in my name at the annual Charter Anniversary Dinner, Thursday, April 20th at 7 P.M. at $4.50 per person.

I enclose herewith my check for $ _____.

Signed _____

Address or Phone No. _____

_____

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joining the Society since our last meeting are: Mrs. Karl Adams, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Halcott G. Grant, Rev. and Mrs. Miles Hanson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey A. Sawyer, Mr. Edwin B. Sears, Mrs. Reginald W. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wheeler, and Mr. and Mrs. Jackson W. Wright, Jr.

Our Endowment Fund has been augmented by the addition of two life members. Inasmuch as the principal is never to be used, it should be kept in mind that such a membership is more than a lifetime membership. Rather it permanently, year after year, keeps supplying a steady, helpful income for the work of the Society long after the member has gone. Contributions of any amount may, of course, be made to the Endowment Fund, to the running expenses of the organization, or to any specific purpose specified by the donor.

The Treasurer asks us to remind the membership that annual dues for the year ending August 31st are now overdue. If you have not paid yours as yet, please take care of this detail now so as to render unnecessary the sending out of reminder notices next month.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

"WESTON OFFICERS WERE ON DECK.

"Weston's constables are hardly satisfied with the testimony given by Waltham officers in district court in the matter of the recent burglary at Keefe's store. According to the testimony of the Waltham police, the Weston officers were "not in it". They think very decidedly that they were. The break was discovered by W. T. Burrage who aroused Constable J. N. Smith. They went to the store, made a hasty examination, and Mr. Smith remained in the store while Mr. Burrage went to Dr. Jackson's and telephoned to the Waltham police station. Sgt. McKenna and Officer Carney drove at once to Weston, and with Messrs. Smith and Burrage, looked the work over again. It was the suggestion of Weston men to make the raid on the Seavern's barn. Mr. Smith suggested that the Waltham officers call at Selectman Jennison's and Mr. Keefe's on their way to Waltham. They did so. Mr. Smith also notified Constable Barker to meet the Waltham officers. They are willing to give the Waltham men every particle of credit due them but they think a little of it belongs to Weston officers".

Of local interest is the fact that the William T. Burrage who sounded the alarm was the uncle of our charter member, Miss Mabel Burrage, and that another charter member, Mrs. Stephen L. Colpitts was the daughter of Officer Charles Barker who guided the posse to his (and her) grandfather, Ralph Seaverns' barn.
father-in-law,

Two Centuries Ago

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS?"

Indeed one does not find it difficult to extol the schools of present day Weston either for the splendid physical plants existing or for the superior quality of teaching by its highly trained staff. This has recently been emphasized by the relationship between the school and some of the members of the Historical Society who have been taking students and teachers on tours of the town and on expeditions such as gravestone rubbing, digging and inspections of historic sites and buildings. The history of the development of the school system is fascinating. The vast contrast with the way our young people were treated some two hundred years ago and now perhaps brings home the unbelievable changes that have taken place. Contrast the present care and upbringing of the youngsters today with the learning of a trade or mystery of two hundred years ago through the then common apprenticeship training.

In our archives is a paper here presented as an example of the arrangements made for a boy from just over the Lincoln line with a Weston tanner.

This Indenture Witnesseth that I Benjamin Brown Jr. of Lincoln in the County of Middlesex, a minor, Hath put himself, and by these presents doth voluntarily; and of his own free will and accord, and with the consent of his father Benjamin Brown aforesaid, put and bind himself Apprentice to Isaac Hobbs and Mary his wife of Weston in the County aforesaid, to learn tanning and curreing Art, Trade or Mystery, and with the said Issac & Mary Hobbs after the Manner of an Apprentice, to serve from the 16th day of January A.D. 1762 for and during the term of five years and two months, to be complete and ended: During all which term the said Apprentice the said Isaac Hobbs faithfully shall serve, his secrets keep, his lawful commands gladly everywhere obey; he shall do no damage to the said Isaac Hobbs nor see it to be done of others, without letting or giving Notice thereof to the said Isaac Hobbs, he shall not waste the said Isaac Hobbs' goods, nor lend them unlawfully to any: he shall not commit Fornication, nor contract matrimony within the said term: At Cards, Dice, or any other unlawful game he shall not play, whereby his said master may have damage, with his own goods nor the goods of others: he shall not absent himself by day or by night from his said master's service without his leave; nor haunt alehouses, Taverns, or Play houses, but in all things behave himself as a faithful Apprentice ought to do towards his said master and mistress during the said term of five years and two months. And the said Isaac Hobbs does hereby covenant and promise to teach and instruct, or cause to be taught and instructed in the Art, Trade, or calling of tanning and curreing by the best ways or means he may or can be taught, (if the said Apprentice be capable to learn) finding unto the said Apprentice suitable meat, drink, washing and lodging (and also to be well instructed in reading, writing and cyphering, during the said term): And at the expiration thereof to give unto the said Apprentice two good suits of apparrel for all parts of his body, one for Lord's days the other for common use—suitable for such an apprentice. In Testimony whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the 16th day of January in the 2d year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord, George the 3d King of Great Britain, A.D. 1762.

The document speaks for itself and yet another example comes to mind in the following extract from a book, The Thomas Lamonts in America, recently donated to the Society by its editor, Corliss Lamont.

> "The story is that Archibald, the eldest son, preceded the other in coming to America (about 1745); that while a boy he was enticed on board a vessel lying off Coleraine (Ireland); and while with boyish curiosity, he was inspecting the vessel she suddenly sailed away. When he begged to be set ashore to return to his mother, the heartless reply was: 'It will be many a long day, my boy, before you see your mother or home again.'
>
> "So Archibald was brought to this country and sold to someone on Long Island to serve as an apprentice and to furnish a profit to those who had kidnapped him, a not uncommon occurrence in those times."

All things were not better in the "Good Old Days."

E. W. M.

IN ~~SIXTY~~ EIGHTY YEARS NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED

From the Friday evening, March 25th, 1892 issue of the Waltham Daily Free Press, these two extracts speak for themselves:

Article 1 of the Warrant for the annual Town Meeting was "to see what action, if any, the Town will take relative to the removal of the telephone poles from Central Avenue". (In those early days of Mr. Bell's sensational communication innovation, it is quite obvious that while the poles were considered to be unsightly they were accepted as inevitable.)

"On the night of Thursday, March 17, all the street lamps from the Baptist Church to the Wayland line were broken. Some were carried off. It is too bad the rascals who commit such acts cannot be apprehended and punished at once."

DECISIONS DECISIONS DECISIONS

Here are a few sample notes from the talks already given by our fellow charter member, James B. Muldoon. His next will occur at the Isaac Fiske Law Office Society headquarters, Tuesday evening, March 7th.

A Speakeasy in Canton is revealed in Volume 49, Page 530 Commonwealth vs. Roxanna Tower (1844) when the latter and Caroline Leonard, spinsters of Canton, kept a speakeasy—wine, brandy, and rum.

On Page 363 in Volume 51 on our shelves is the case of Bosworth vs. Swansea in 1845. Travel on the Lord's Day was perilous, for although Bosworth was injured because of a defect in a public way in Swansea while en route from Rhode Island to Fall River, the verdict was for the defendant because the statutes forbade travel on the Lord's Day under penalty of $10 unless it was a necessity or a purpose of charity.

Volume 53, Page 231, Commonwealth vs. Thompson (1847), the defendant was found guilty as charged in East Boston under the statute that read: "Every person who shall smoke or have in his or her possession any lighted pipe or cigar in any street, lane, or passageway or any wharf in said town shall forfeit and pay, for each and every offense, the sum of $2."

The first overtime parking case is found on Page 438 in Volume 59 when in 1849, Commonwealth vs. Robertson, the latter was fined for having left his hackney carriage with two horses harnessed thereto, for more than fifteen minutes on Tremont Street at the entrance to the Boston Museum.

These, and countless more, may be read at our Law Office headquarters, open by appointment.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

May 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 4

Photo 1910 by Harold Stevens

THE RUINS OF THE FLAGG TAVERN

"When I was young, it (Weston) was known as the Town with the chimneys. Route 20, or Central Avenue as it was called, was the main automobile route between Boston and New York and the principal landmark in Weston was a pair of chimneys that rose prominently from a cellar hole by the side of the road. For many years motorists traveling along the highway passed these unsightly objects and, seeing them year after year, no doubt wondered why they weren't pulled down. People in town wondered the same thing. There were various theories, one being that . . . the owner refused to disturb them until an insurance claim had been settled, while the insurance company, believing the fire of incendiary origin refused to settle, so the stalemate persisted." (*Travel and Transportation:* Weston Historical Society Bulletin, May 1969).

The old Flagg Tavern had burnt to the ground on November 6, 1902 but the chimneys weren't demolished until more than thirty years later. George Washington wrote in his journal on October 23, 1789 ". . . and thence to Weston . . . where we lodged." On October 24, 1789 he noted: "Dressed by seven o'clock and set out at eight." The two upstairs fireplaces that are visible in the picture heated the front chambers, and no doubt Washington got dressed in front of one of them. It was in this historic building that he passed the night as mentioned in his diary.

On the preceding day (Thursday) he had written to Governor John Hancock from Brookfield: "A few miles west of this village I met the express, who delivered me your Excellency's letter of yesterday. I have been so

fortunate as to proceed thus far, without any accident to delay my journey; should nothing occur to prevent me, I shall be at Weston tomorrow night, and I purpose taking dinner so early at Watertown on Saturday, as to reach Cambridge by half past two o'clock. Thence I presume we shall arrive within an hour at Boston.

"I am highly sensible of the honor intended me: But could my wish prevail I should desire to visit your Metropolis without any parade, or extraordinary ceremony. From a wish to avoid giving trouble to private families, I determined, on leaving New York, to decline the honor of any invitation to quarters which I might receive on my journey; and with a view to observe this rule, I had requested a Gentleman to engage lodgings for me during my stay at Boston. I beg your Excellency to be persuaded of the grateful sense of the honor you intended to confer on me, and I desire to assure you of the respectful regard with which I am &c." In view of this policy, so carefully explained to the Governor, would Washington have broken down the very next day and stayed with General Marshall on Highland Street, Weston, as some have alleged? (See Weston Historical Society Bulletin, *A HOUSE THAT TRAVELED*, October 1970).

During his stay at Weston, President Washington despatched a letter under date of October 23, 1789 to Governor Hancock informing the latter of certain changes he had made in the plans that had been outlined in his letter from Brookfield. He explained: ". . . have the honor to inform you, that in consequence of suggestions made by the Gentlemen from Boston and the Deputy Adjut. General . . . that it would be more convenient for the troops . . . if I should pass through Cambridge at an earlier hour than I intended, I thought it best to alter the time of my arrival at that place, which I had the pleasure to mention in my letter of yesterday . . . that it is my determination to be at Cambridge to-morrow at 10 o'clock, and I will do myself the honor to accept your Excellency's polite invitation of taking an informal dinner with you. I have the honor &c."

A footnote, however, at the bottom of Page 452 in *WRITINGS OF WASHINGTON* reveals the following: "Washington lodged at Weston the night of October 23 and left it at 8 a.m., October 24. According to schedule he reached Cambridge at 10 a.m.; but the militia was not ready until 11 a.m. A conflict over local precedence delayed his entry into Boston. Lieut. Gov. Samuel Adams, who had been sent by the Governor to welcome the President at the town limits, encountered opposition from the town authorities, who claimed the right to welcome the President to the town. Adams was forced to give way. The details of this controversy are in Washington's *DIARIES*." On reaching Boston Saturday afternoon, October 25, 1789, Washington was neither met by the Governor nor called upon by him. Instead, Lieutenant Governor Samuel Adams met him at the Cambridge line and, on reaching his Boston lodgings, Washington canceled the dinner appointment and dined with Vice President John Adams.

Not until Sunday the 26th did Governor Hancock finally call on the President. At half past twelve o'clock he sent a note and at one o'clock, thirty minutes later, President Washington replied "The President of the United States presents his best respects to the Governor, and has the honor to inform him that he shall be at home 'till 2 o'clock. The President of the United States need not express the pleasure it will give him to see the Governor; but, at the same time, he most earnestly begs that the Governor will not hazard his health on the occasion." Hancock on his arrival assured the President that indisposition alone had prevented his calling before.

THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS RAILROAD

The year 1971 marked the end of passenger service on the century-old Central Massachusetts Railroad. Although at one time this little line boasted of two long distance trains—one to Washington D.C. and the other to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, it was never an important trunk route like its neighbors, "The Fitchburg" and "The Boston and Albany". It served commuters, however, for many years in the towns lying between Lancaster and Boston,—and even the longer run to Northampton was well patronized.

Incorporated in 1869 as *The Massachusetts Central*, its purpose was to proceed westward from Boston through the center of the state. Towns along the route were high pressured into subscribing to the stock, and those who did, little realized what disappointment lay ahead for them.

In an 1870 Weston town meeting it was

> "Resolved,—to authorize the Town Treasurer to subscribe to 500 shares of Massachusetts Central Railroad upon certain specified conditions regarding depot accommodations for the town; and also that the road shall be an independent through line to the city of Boston."

A vote was taken, and the resolution was defeated, 85 to 72.

Despite Weston's uncooperative attitude, construction was started in 1872—just 100 years ago—and during the next decade less than 50 miles of track were laid. By then the road was so badly in debt that the bondholders foreclosed. Service consisting of four trains from Boston to Jefferson and return each day and two round trips between Boston and Hudson were suspended. Vegetation quickly took over the unused roadbed and for the next four years the section through Weston had a stand of scrub birch growing between the tracks and ties.

In 1886 the Boston and Lowell Railroad came to the rescue and, for a consideration, agreed to complete the tracks to Northampton. There was no diddling around this time. The Boston and Lowell was an efficient organization and laid the remaining 50 miles of track in about a year,—about a mile a week, by man and beast,—no bulldozers, cranes, and tractors then!

So in 1887 the line once more became operable, its name was changed to *The Central Massachusetts Railroad* and, along with the Boston and Lowell, it became a part of the Boston and Maine system. Once more the melodious whistle echoed through the valley, and once more the puffs of steam and smoke rose from the locomotive as it left one station for the next,—and once more the sparks from the smokestack would set fire to the bogs between Cherry Brook and Tower Hill in a dry season, causing the peat to smolder away for days and even weeks at a time.

By then there were nine westbound and nine eastbound trains a day,—three each way between Boston and Northampton, one each way between Boston and Ware, two between Boston and Hudson, and three between Boston and Wayland. Of this operation, Col. Daniel S. Lamson in his *History of the Town of Weston Massachusetts 1630-1890* wrote:

> "The Massachusetts Central Railroad, in its inception purely a speculative enterprise, has now come to maturity on a solid basis after twenty years of incubation. Not one of the original officers had personally any practical experience either in building or operating railroads. They went to work blindly, and began their road 'nowhere', and ended it in about the same place, as regards being within the reach of business."

In 1890 two new trains were advertised:—*THE PHILADELPHIA AND WASHINGTON EXPRESS* leaving Boston at 5:45 P.M. with Pullman Buffet sleeping cars,—first stop South Sudbury,—and *THE HARRISBURG EXPRESS* leaving Boston at 8 A.M., Pullman Buffet, Drawing Room cars,—first stop Waltham. The eastbound *HARRISBURG EXPRESS* stopped at Weston every evening at 9:05 to discharge passengers from Oakdale and stations west.

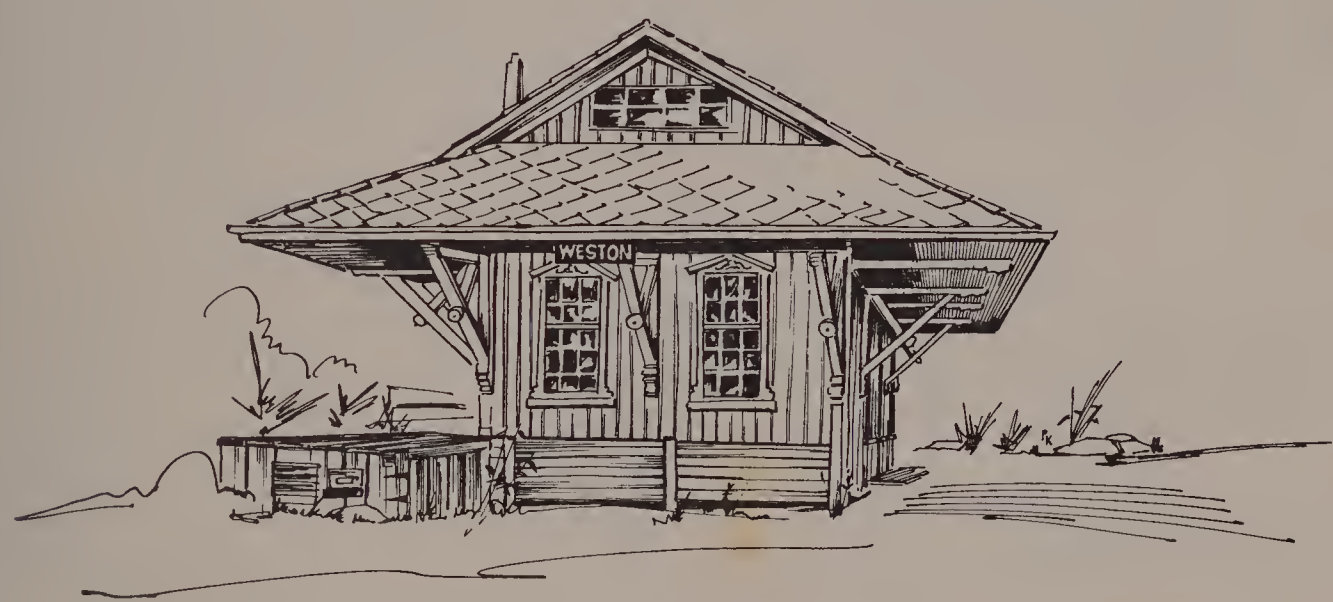
Our little single track line with such grandiose equipment was now beginning to look important. Alas, that one track with only occasional turnouts for trains to pass one another, took a tortuous course with considerable grade from Waltham to Weston. Once west of Hudson it meandered all over the place. This was hardly conducive to the speed needed for long distance travel.

Local service, however, was excellent with trains going through town about every hour: twelve a day in each direction! After World War I these numbers were considerably reduced; then came the great 1938 hurricane which did irreparable damage to the tracks west of Clinton. No attempt was ever made to restore them. By the time of World War II about five trains remained and these were eliminated one by one until finally service was reduced to a single Buddliner that plied between South Sudbury and Boston, once a day in each direction, to accommodate the dwindling number of commuters. An experiment, conducted in 1971 to see if frequent service would bring back the commuters, was a futile effort. Once accustomed to road travel, the passengers that had been lost found it hard to change without something special being offered as an inducement. This the Central Massachusetts did not have; instead it had such a rough roadbed and its ties were in such deteriorated condition that the trains had to move very slowly to prevent derailment. The experiment was a failure, passenger service was discontinued, and that apparently ends the story of the Central Massachusetts.

B.H.D.

1972 RESTORATION

As our Historian handed us the preceding manuscript, a coincidence occurred. At almost the same moment, carpenters began to remove the old shingles from the roof of the old Weston Station as the first step in a thorough rejuvenation and restoration that safeguards the preservation of an attractive, nostalgic landmark. Weston is indeed fortunate to have on Church Street, hardly half a mile apart, two of the dwindling number of mid 19th Century railroad stations left in the country. One is at Weston Center,--the other at Kendal Green. Both are owned by the same man, Mr. James W. Ferrelli of Wellesley Street who has engaged the firm headed by our fellow member, Bruce Nickerson, to do the work. He has agreed to paint the building when the work is completed, in the original color which expert and experienced Weston Historical Society members are endeavoring by careful analysis of scrapings to uncover. Weston may well be thankful for this latest evidence of the continued regard of its citizens for the gems of the past. In time, these two railroad stations may become as rare as the two early 19th Century Law Offices of which Weston is so proud, the one at 626 Boston Post Road being the headquarters of our Society, open on appointment.



"MANY-SIDED FRANKLIN"

Dr. Vera Laska recommends for pleasant reading the following two books about our country's first Postmaster General,—Benjamin Franklin. It was he who, on a visit to Weston, selected 651 Boston Post Road to be our first post office. For a definitive biography, Dr. Laska brands Carl Van Doren's *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN* as "simply beautiful", adding "from boy to diplomatist you meet an entirely new Franklin too."

Her second suggestion is *MON CHER PAPA, FRANKLIN AND THE LADIES OF PARIS* by Claude Anne Lopez, a French author who is in charge of Franklin's French papers in the first edition of the complete *Papers of Benjamin Franklin* now being edited at Yale University. Of this novel Dr. Laska observes—"Whereas somebody once said the Vatican is splendid but lacks the woman's touch, Claude Anne Lopez surely provides this touch to a Franklin who was so many-sided. No wonder he was the best known person in the world of his time."

MEMBERSHIP STEADILY GROWS

Welcomed to membership in our Society are Mr. and Mrs. Edward O. Carlman, Mr. and Mrs. David V. Harmon, Mr. and Mrs. Wade G. Asaff, and Mrs. N. T. Herndon. Another life membership has been pledged and will be added to our Endowment Fund, only the income from which will ever be used. Such life memberships thus are never-ending in their annual contributions to the Society's program, projects, and perpetuity. Life memberships, like annual dues and other contributions to the Society, are tax deductible. They may be taken out in anyone's name, and make a most appropriate, generous, and meaningful gift to dedicated progeny and devoted friends.

NEXT MULDOON LECTURE

On Tuesday, May 9 at 8 o'clock in the Isaac Fiske Law Office, Mr. James B. Muldoon will give another of his informal lectures on fascinating court cases and decisions of yesteryear. As seating is limited, phone your reservations to 899-5469 or 893-7388.

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

October 1972, Vol. IX, No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING AND LECTURE NOVEMBER 2ND

On Thursday evening, November second, at 8 o'clock in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Society will hold its annual meeting. Brief reports from committees and officers will be heard and the Nominating Committee will propose the names of four members as directors to serve until the annual meeting in 1975. The terms of the following are expiring: Brenton H. Dickson, IIIrd, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Harold G. Travis, and the late Mrs. D. Stephen Thrall. Continuing for one more year are Erlund Field, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols, and for two more years, Donald D. Douglass, Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, and Mrs. Stanley G. French.

At the conclusion of the short business meeting, members will be treated to the famous lecture "Doctors in New England: 1790-1840" by Mr. Barnes Riznik who is vice president of Old Sturbridge Village. He is also a Trustee of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and is an excellent speaker. His description of the tools and methods of the medical profession in the late 18th and first half of the 19th centuries cannot fail to evoke admiration for oldtime Yankee ingenuity, and gratitude for the improvements that have since been made for the benefit and comfort of mankind.

MEMBERSHIP STEADILY GROWING

Since our last issue, we have welcomed into our membership Mr. Richard P. Berry (to join Mrs. Berry, a charter member), Dr. and Mrs. John R. Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Dreary, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Greene, Dr. and Mrs. Carl C. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kuypers.

We again remind members old and young, new and old, to get their neighbors and friends to support the great work of our Society and to become members by sending their checks, payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. to Box 343, Weston.

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IN MEMORIAM

MARION GREEN • HELEN JOHNSON • FRANCIS POOLER

ADELE SQUIBB • CHANNING SWAN • HELEN THRALL

Since the beginning of the year our hearts have been saddened by the deaths of the six charter members named above. Their friendship, their devotion to our Society and to all of Weston will never be forgotten.

THOMAS LASKA

Early in the summer, — a few days following graduation from Duke University, — Tom Laska was killed while riding as a passenger in an automobile. At Weston High School, he had endeared himself to all by his citizenship, his concern, and his integrity. He was the only son of our distinguished colleague and member, Dr. Vera Laska, and of her husband, Andy. They must know that in this trying hour not only we but the entire community mourn the loss of their only son.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE
COME WITH US TO PITTSFIELD OCTOBER 21ST

All members of Weston Historical Society are cordially invited to attend the annual fall meeting of the Bay State Historical League in Pittsfield Saturday, October 21st, beginning at 10 o'clock. The League comprises over 200 local Massachusetts historical societies.

A special feature is a combination fall meeting-foliage tour package trip by comfortable bus from MTA Station at Route 128 where the first 49 persons to sign up will leave for Pittsfield at 8 o'clock Saturday morning, Oct. 21. The brief meeting starts promptly at 10:30 and the rest of the morning and all afternoon will involve visits to the picturesque and historic museums and sites of Pittsfield. Toward afternoon's close, we are guests of the Crane Paper Museum at a wine and cheese tasting reception.

We shall stay overnight in the center of Pittsfield at the Conrad Hilton Hotel-Motel. Arrival back in Boston (Riverside MTA Station) is planned for 4 P.M. the following (Sunday) afternoon by way of a meandering "back country" route through such lovely towns as Stockbridge, Great Barrington, New Boston, Southwick, Wilbraham, and Brimfield at a time when the colors in the foliage should be at the height of their spectacular beauty.

We hope many Weston members will take this tour with us. The cost of $35 per person double, $40 single, covers not only the whole trip but also Saturday's luncheon and nice accommodations at the Conrad Hilton overnight. To relax and enjoy the luxury of seeing the heart of New England in its fall glory, in addition to finding yourself in the company of very worthwhile people who are doing their part to preserve the best of our history, is an opportunity for fellowship and fun that seldom is so attractively and economically combined into one package. If you would like to go, call the Tour chairman at 891-8110 or your own editor at 899-4515.

WESTON'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Last spring the Selectmen appointed the following members of our Society to comprise the Town's Committee for the observance of the Revolutionary War's Bicentennial: Mrs. Dudley Dumaine, Dr. Vera Laska, Messrs. Donald D. Douglass, Richard B. Lombard, and Harold G. Travis, with Mr. Douglass as chairman. Two orientation meetings have already been held. The Committee has also met with representatives of nearby communities in this region. Various Weston organizations will be asked to attend a November meeting at which time suggestions will be invited and certain guide lines established.

Many members recall how overwhelmingly successful was town-wide participation in commemorating nine years ago the 250th Anniversary of Weston's incorporation. Memories of the Society's Pagaent, led by Dr. Robert J. McMillan, that dramatized in 1965 the 190th anniversary of the immortal nineteenth of April, 1775, are still vivid. Indeed several hundred citizens marched through four inches of newly-fallen snow to follow the trail over Lamson's Hill that Weston's 103 Minute Men had taken on that eventful day. The "Brown Bess" rifles, tricorn hats, and costumes that were made for the occasion are still available.

Other successful hits from the Society's past programs include the amusing skit "Around The Cracker Barrel", the beginnings of a Weston Historical Trail, and the publication of an historical map of the Town. Should a new book be undertaken to describe, as has never been adequately done, the part Weston people played in the Revolution? Should our Historical Map be revised, amplified, and reprinted? Where and what sort of a plaque, long overdue, should be placed in recognition of Weston's Minute Men, just as veterans of subsequent wars through World War II were promptly memorialized on the walls of Town Hall and Library?

These and many other questions will be carefully discussed. Additional suggestions will have the Committee's fullest consideration, and no specific plans will be made until the whole Town will have had ample opportunity to make its wishes and perspective known. Much no doubt will hinge on what programs may be developed for the State as a whole, particularly in the nearby Concord-Lexington regional area. Decision should then be made as to what Weston, for its own, should itself undertake. We must make the most of our opportunity to perpetuate and strengthen the ideals that have made our country and our community so worthwhile during the past two centuries.

THOSE LATE 18TH and EARLY 19TH CENTURY LAW OFFICES HOW MANY ARE LEFT? WHERE ARE THEY?

BY HAROLD G. TRAVIS

Riding through New England is always a treat. Many and diverse are the thoughts that come to mind as we pass through village and town. Coming back home via the Old Boston Post Road one day, it suddenly occurred to us that here within a mile or so of each other on this historic highway are three unique and rare little buildings, the law offices of Fiske 1805, Bigelow 1811, and Mellen 1826. With clapboard siding painted white, hipped roof, and central chimney, they would seem to have been designed and perhaps built by the same man. How many more little buildings like these three are still left in New England, we wondered. The more we thought about it, the more eager we became to find out. So here's what we've gleaned after a summer of exploration and widespread inquiry.

Only two other white, hip-roofed law offices with central chimneys are still standing, — one at Sandwich on Cape Cod, the other in Woodstock, Vermont. That makes five, but there are 10 others who qualify through age and general characteristics, from the 1754 Governor Fitch Law Office in Norwalk, Connecticut to the 1809 one at Paris, Maine and the one that Daniel Webster had built on his Marshfield, Massachusetts farm in 1842. Look at the photographs which accompany this article and you'll observe that though their roofs are usually gabled and not hipped, the pitch in the case of eight is too steep to permit an upstairs room while one has a shallow rounded roof and another one that's almost flat. In the following thumbnail sketches you will see that, including our three (two in Weston and one in Wayland), ten were two room affairs and five comprised but one single room.

Taking the oldest (1754) first and graduating to the least old (though it has stood for 130 years), you are invited to read some of the interesting facts and features of these historically unique buildings of long ago, and of accomplishments that brought prominence to their owners and occupants.

THE 1740 GOVERNOR THOMAS FITCH LAW OFFICE AT NORWALK, CONNECTICUT

A most demanding undertaking, a challenge to the architect, this unique restoration, completed last November, stands proudly on the Mill Hill Historic Site, Norwalk, Connecticut. If alive today, Thomas Fitch V, 14th governor of the Connecticut Colony from 1754 to 1766 inclusive, would easily recognize the little 27' 7" x 16' 5" two room building that he once used for a law office and other business. He was one of the pioneers in utilizing certain small buildings, convenient to his home, for privacy and efficiency.

Mr. John Cuneo headed the Mayor of Norwalk's Historical Sites Committee, architect John Gaydosh contacted us and visited us at length in 1970 to see how well we had restored the Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office here in Weston, and Mr. Ralph Bloom, Curator of Historic Buildings and Superintendent of Historic Sites for the City of Norwalk helped us tremendously with this article. Among its greatest assets, the latter emphasizes, is a copy of the original library owned by the Governor. All books are listed *by title*, — a most unusual thing. Many of the governor's papers signed by him in this very office, still exist and several laminated copies of them are on hand for examination.

After the British raid in 1779, the office building was made part of the main Fitch residence to replace the burnt kitchen wing. Eventually that house was replaced by a Victorian one and until the 1971 restoration, the office building lost its separate identity. At that time several lean-tos were also rescued and removed. The early dimensions of the original framing, sill, and roof supports were still in place. The Fitch estate remained in the family until the mid-1940's and there were then only two brief ownerships until the property was taken in 1955 for the construction of the Connecticut Through-Way.

Born at Norwalk in 1700, Thomas Fitch graduated from Yale in 1721. Though actually never a law student, he nonetheless was seated by 1724 in the front row of Norwalk's only church with justices and lawyers. In 1742 the Connecticut Assembly appointed him "to inspect and revise the laws". He brought forth "The Code of 1750", acclaimed as a model of clarity in both the colonies and England as "the best code of Plantation Laws that was ever published". He died on July 18, 1774.

JUDGE TAPPING REEVE'S 1784 LITCHFIELD LAW OFFICE

Twenty-five years before the 19th Century, Tapping Reeve started to practise law in his Litchfield, Connecticut home. Within nine years he was so popular as practioner and teacher that he built a separate building. Thus began America's first law school with his office the first building. How fitting it is that 188 years later, this landmark stands on its original South Street site alongside the Reeve House, having weathered four distinct moves.

One of Reeve's first pupils was his brother-in-law Aaron Burr, followed by over a thousand students including such giants as John C. Calhoun, Horace Mann, and Oliver Wolcott, Jr. From this little office rose two of our country's vice presidents, three U.S. Supreme Court Justices, 116 U.S. Senators and Congressmen, and 6 Connecticut governors. Becoming Justice of Connecticut's Supreme Court in 1798 Reeve took as partner a former pupil, James Gould, Yale 1790. These two ran the school until Judge Reeve retired in 1820. Three years later he died at 79 and Gould continued alone until the school closed in 1833.

This small, gable-ended structure, 20' wide and 21' long, was about 15' tall, facing east on South Street. Like the meeting houses of those early days, it had no heat except for foot warmers. Not until its move to West Street in 1849 for use as a dwelling was any attempt made to heat it by adding a partition down the middle with a stack built up through the peak.

The building had one door at the front northeast corner with two windows alongside and on each of the other sides. Its roof pitched too sharply for any kind of a room upstairs. Its ceiling and walls were of board. During the Civil War it was incorporated in a new house of Gothic design but in 1900 it regained its identity and stood beside the house for a dozen years when it was moved next to the Wolcott Library. Here it hosted a gift shop and then, on being acquired by the Litchfield Historical Society in 1929, it was moved back onto the Reeve property and restored.

Let us salute the Litchfield Historical Society on preserving Tapping Reeve's law office, —the country's first law school!

JUDGE WOOD'S 1794 LAW OFFICE IN MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS

Today on the spacious Jackson Street grounds of the Middleboro Historical Society's Museum stands the neat little law office built in 1794 by Judge Wilkes Wood one year after his graduation from Brown University. Originally it was built on the Woods family estate on South Main Street where the Middleboro Trust Company is now located. Wilkes Wood was a judge of the Probate Court, an early president of the Plymouth County Bar Association, and a State Senator. He died at the age of 73 in 1843, survived by his widow, Lucy Nichols Cushing Wood, whom he had married 16 years before.

The building, 12' wide and 16' deep, was moved to the Museum grounds in 1966 largely through the leadership and motivation of the late Lawrence B. Romaine, many of whose books and papers are on display there as a memorial. Restoration has not been fully completed, but it is obvious that the small structure consisted of a front waiting room and a rear room for the Judge's practise and teaching, separated by a central chimney beside whose fireplaces were shelves for books and cupboards for supplies.

Mr. Romaine's widow is curator of the Museum which is well worth visiting. Among many attractive features its display of General and Mrs. Tom Thumb, the latter a native of Middleboro, in model forms with wearing apparel and other memorabilia is most unusual and noteworthy. These illustrious dwarves were made internationally famous by that great showman of all time, Phineas T. Barnum.

JOHN MCCLELLAN'S 1796 LAW OFFICE: A SIGNIFICANT RESTORATION

One of the many authentic and quaint components of Old Sturbridge Village, less than an hour's drive from Weston, is the little law office that, some half dozen years or so ago, was moved from Woodstock, Connecticut, restored, and appropriately equipped and furnished. As a description of it would be inadequate, readers are urged to spend a day at Old Sturbridge Village where, at first hand, the story of this building can best be told and its quaint charm adequately felt.

After he graduated from Yale in 1785, John McClellan entered the Norwich, Connecticut office of Samuel Huntington. He returned to his native Woodstock a year later to enter the office of Charles Church Chandler. Here his father built a house for him on the main street and John himself, at a cost just under $100, erected this little one story, one room building. A chimney at the rear provided a cheerful fireplace and the interior was painted white. Go to Old Sturbridge Village near the junctions of Routes 15 and 20, and see, hear, and feel the fascinating story of this historical building.

THE CHARLES P. MARSH 1797 LAW OFFICE IN WOODSTOCK, VERMONT

The Hon. Charles P. Marsh's 1797 hip-roofed, one story, two room building with central chimney for the two fireplaces, had wide floor boards and first stood on Elm Street, Woodstock. Its original sign hangs today in the office of the Woodstock Historical Society. Marsh was born at Lebanon, Connecticut July 10, 1765 but his folks moved to Hartford, Vermont in 1773. He graduated from Dartmouth in 1786 and two years later, from America's first Law School—that of Tapping Reeve—in Litchfield, Connecticut. In 1789 he married a Litchfield girl, Nancy Collins, who died 4 years later just 8 days after the birth of their second child, Ann Collins Marsh. Their son, Charles, became a lawyer but died when only 27. Marsh's second wife Susan Arnold of St. Johnsbury, whom he married on June 3, 1798, bore him three sons, the first two of whom studied law under him. The youngest became a doctor of medicine.

In 1806 Mr. Marsh moved his Elm Street building to one corner of "The Meeting House Lot". He died on January 11, 1849 at the age of 84 and it was used until 1874 as a fire insurance office and as a probate office. The following year it was moved and became a grain store for five years next to the railroad depot on Pleasant Street. It was moved again in 1880 to Hartland Hill, its present location, at the east end of Pleasant Street. Since then it has been used as a residence, though following World War II, it doubled as a dress shop for fifteen years. Thus after over half a century as a law office, this historic building knew 26 years as an insurance and probate office, 15 as a dress shop, and 92 as a pleasant home that still, though almost two centuries old, is excellently preserved and is in the hands of those who cherish its charm and history.

Marsh spent his entire professional career of 61 years in Woodstock. Basically a respected country lawyer, he rendered conspicuous public service through appointment as Vermont District Attorney by President Washington. At the dawn of the 19th Century he became a trustee of his Alma Mater, Dartmouth, and in 1814 won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 1805 ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE IN WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Isaac Fiske (1778-1861), graduate of Harvard in the Class of 1798, was often called "The leading lawyer of Middlesex Circuit". His contributions to church, community, and state were numberless. He served for 24 years as Town Clerk, six as Selectman, and six as representative to the General Court. It is most appropriate that his 1805 law office, restored so well by our members six years ago should be our headquarters.

About 20' wide and 12' deep, it was first built for Artemus Ward whose father of the same name had served on General Washington's staff. Almost simultaneously young Fiske's house, diagonally across the old Boston Post Road, was built and it too remains one of the showplaces of Weston. Fiske went into partnership with Ward and when very shortly the latter left Weston, Fiske became sole owner. It stayed in the Fiske family until sold to the Town in 1928 with a "buy-back" proviso. Early in the present century when the large Fiske barn was moved down the street to become first an upholstery shop and now comprises stores and offices, its shed was annexed to the rear of the tiny law office. After World War II the Town converted it into a residence for veterans, but by the early 60's the need had passed and the Historical Society, leasing it from the Town, restored it.

On its west is the old Central Cemetery. Southward it looks out past its old-fashioned bulb garden over an open field to Linwood Cemetery. 20 feet to its east is the trunk, almost 18' in diameter, of the historic Burgoyne Elm which almost 200 years ago sheltered overnight half of Burgoyne's men who, captured at Saratoga, were being escorted to Boston by General Glover. The building looks northward toward the site of Baldwin's Tavern, now gone, and to Soldiers' Park on which a monument to one of Isaac's descendants was placed after World War I.

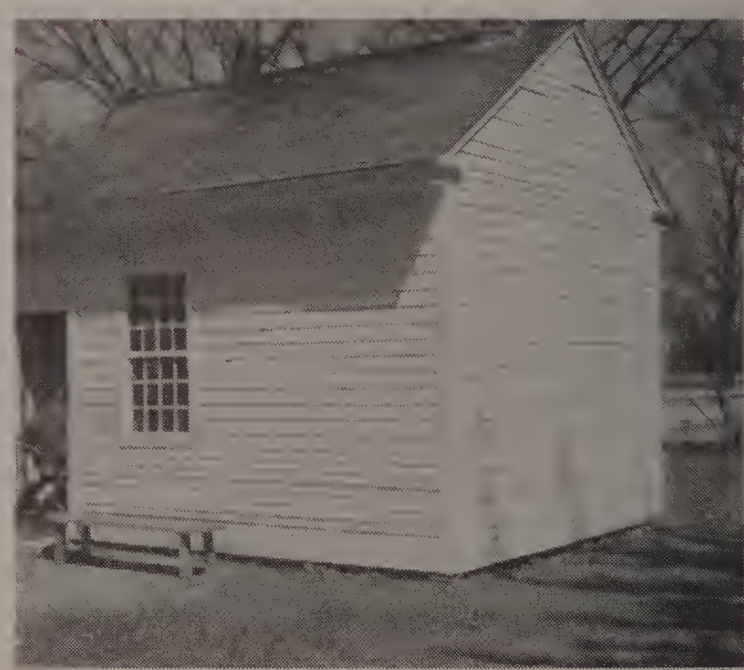
The two rooms of this hip-roofed building with its central chimney have individual fireplaces. Furnishings include Isaac's portrait ("A Gentleman of the Old School"), his stand-up desk, many books, pictures, and other items of early 19th Century character. The front of the building is clapboarded and the rest of the exterior, all painted white with dark green shutters, are of sturdy Vermont shakes.

FITCH 1740
NORWALK, CONN.

REEVE 1784
LITCHFIELD, CONN.

BIGELOW 1811
WESTON, MASS.

WOOD 1794
MIDDLEBORO, MASS.



McCLELLAN 1796
STURBRIDGE, MASS.

THE 1809 PARRIS LAW OFFICE AT PARIS, MAINE

Paris, Maine is just an hour's drive from Portland. From its hill a thrilling view of Mt. Washington and the Presidential Range unfolds. In 1809 two great events occurred on Paris Hill. Hannibal Hamlin, later Lincoln's first term vice president, was born there on August 27th, and Albion Keith Parris, Dartmouth 1806, became the town's third lawyer. He built his law office next to the 1808 Hubbard House on the Main Street. It was only 20' broad, 15' deep and one story high with two tiny rooms and a friendly porch.

Four years later he was elected to the Massachusetts legislature, in 1814 to its Senate, then quickly to the U. S. House of Representatives. Declining a second term he became Justice of the U. S. Circuit Court. Once Maine won separate statehood in 1820, Parris became its second governor and was reelected four times! In 1828 after a year in the U.S. Senate, he resigned to become Justice of the Supreme Court of Maine, and five years before he died at 69 in 1857 he was elected Mayor of Portland.

Whoever said "Great oaks from little acorns grow" might well have been speaking of the Parris Law Office. Enoch Lincoln who leased it in 1817 was later a Maine governor and one of his pupils, T. Jarvis Carter, served in the 25th Congress. Another pupil, later Judge Joseph Cole, bought the building in 1836, followed by Attorney N. M. Marble and U. S. Congressman Rufus K. Goodenow.

When the railroad finally came to Maine in the 1850's, business and government drifted downhill and gradually Paris Hill went back to residential character. The Parris Law Office did not forsake the law until Judge Cole's protegé, General Kimball, went off to war in 1861. Then Samuel Carter used it for a mineral collection, later leasing it to Elmer Giles for a candy shop. When Carter died, his estate sold the building in 1893 to Edward L. Parris.

It remained in the Parris family until 1940 when purchased by Arvilla Peabody Ross and her husband, Rear Admiral Ross, who own and occupy the Hubbard House next door. They have restored the historic gem of yesteryear and retain it as a symbol of the meaningful past.

THE 1810 ZACHARIAH EDDY LAW OFFICE

Zachariah Eddy, born December 6, 1780, was the great-great-great grandson of Samuel Eddy, the Pilgrim. Graduating from Brown University in 1799, he was for consecutive years preceptor of Connecticut's Plainfield Academy and of Bridgewater (Massachusetts) Academy. Then he felt called to the legal profession and started study under Judge Thomas of Plymouth. In 1803 as a wedding present to Zachariah and his bride, Sarah Edson, the former's father, Captain Joshua Eddy, built a spacious home for them on land that has continuously remained in the family since its acquisition from the Indians in 1661. This house, well-known now as "The Eddy Homestead", was restored in 1962 and stands on its original site at the corner of Cedar and Plympton Streets in the Eddyville section of Middleboro, Massachusetts.

In 1810 Zachariah built close to the street and next to his house, a little round-roofed law office building about 12' square and high, with a chimney of old bricks at the rear. The one-room structure was heated by a fireplace that faced toward the door with each side having shelving for books and closed cupboards at the bottom. From its ceiling still hangs a tin chandelier for candles. It is now electrified.

Zachariah Eddy's law practise encompassed 41 active years, the last 37 of which found him headquartered in this little building. He was often associated with Daniel Webster when the latter retired to nearby Marshfield, and during his lifetime he appeared in over 300 cases before the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. The leading lawyer in his community, Zachariah was friend and revered counsellor to its citizens. All told, some 20 students "read law" under him in that office.

No record exists of the uses to which the building was put after his death in 1860. Finding it idle and unused in 1929, Mrs. James J. Storrow of Boston and Lincoln purchased it and had it moved the following year to The Storrowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield. Here its charm and dignity impress thousands of visitors who come annually to this attractively restored village.

TYLER 1822
BROOKLYN, CONN.

HALL 1822
SHEFFIELD, MASS.

MELLEN 1826
WAYLAND, MASS.

BROOKS 1830
PETERSHAM, MASS.

DANIEL WEBSTER 1842
MARSHFIELD, MASS.

MARSH 1797
WOODSTOCK, VT.

PARRIS 1809
PARIS, MAINE

ISAAC FISKE 1805
WESTON, MASS.

EDDY 1810
STORROWTON, MASS.

NYE 1820
SANDWICH, MASS.

THE 1811 BIGELOW LAW OFFICE IN WESTON AT THE TOWN LINE

Alpheus Bigelow Jr. was born in Weston in 1784, the son of Captain Alpheus Bigelow, one of Weston's 103 "Minute Men", a subsequent veteran of the Revolutionary War, and a servant of the Town for half a century in various capacities, including Selectman, Tythingman, Surveyor of Highways, Captain of the Weston Light Infantry, and even a member of a committee "to control Town expenditures for the encouragement of Singing." The son graduated as a promising young lawyer from Harvard in 1810 and married Mary Ann Hubbard Townsend the following year. First associated with Isaac Fiske, he soon set up separate practise in a building of his own that was erected about a mile west on the Post Road at the very Wayland line, quite similar in style and design to that of Fiske's.

The white hip-roofed, clapboarded building, 28' 4" wide by 13' 4" deep, had a central chimney and two tiny rooms, each with fireplace. It had a front and a back door, each opening into a small entryway of its own. Its picture is among those represented in the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Library of Congress as notable examples of the development of architecture in the United States. It stands at roadside on the property of John F. and Edith C. Simpson whose daughter, Joan, is painstakingly guarding its preservation.

Following the example of his father, Alpheus Bigelow, Jr. served the Town of Weston long and well. First a Tythingman, he was a member of the school board for 30 years, a Selectman, and a representative in the General Court for 3 years. In 1814 he was made a Justice of the Peace and for many years his signature appeared on Town documents directly under that of Isaac Fiske, Town Clerk. A complaint on the condition of the Boston Post Road by the County Commissioners was settled on condition that Squire Alpheus Bigelow, Jr. be made Surveyor of Highways for the District. As did his father, he lived to be ninety years of age. Both the office he built on the Post Road in 1811 and the mansion he erected across the street a decade later are picturesque landmarks that welcome you to Weston from the west and are the last sentinels of old Weston as one heads westward from Boston.

SETH FREEMAN NYE'S 1820 LAW OFFICE AT SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Trial Justice for Barnstable County and, from 1850 to 1856 Justice of the Peace, Seth Nye lived from August 31, 1791 until September 13, 1856. He married Sally Carver in 1813 and commenced the practise of law in Sandwich on Jan. 17, 1815 when John Bassett sued Samuel Swift for an unpaid, disputed bill. The local Historical Society has Nye's meticulously handwritten record of every case and of every item of income and expense whether for legal services or for selling wood to the Boston and Sandwich Glass Company and others at $3 to $5 per cord while paying his men 75¢ to cut, split, and stack it. When he became trial justice, his notes, usually routine, once in a while grew quite spicy.

Page after page summarizes collections, larcenies, and various types of disturbances, but suddenly one stands out. It involves a case of slander wherein a certain lady who won't be named here, told her friend, also named but perforce anonymous here, that the "Rev. . . . . slept with . . . . . just as sure as he (her friend) slept with his wife." Nye notes that since she declined to name and substantiate her source, he could not acquit her. On the other hand, he observed, had she named her source and proved it reliable, his verdict might have been different!

The younger of Seth's two sisters, Sabra, was ten years his junior. From the age of 20 until she died a spinster in her 80's, she ran a millinery shop in one of the two small rooms of her brother's hip-roofed law office, 30' wide and 15' deep. What distinguishes this building from its counterparts of the period is that it was a duplex affair. As the photograph shows, there were two central front doors side by side. Each opened into a small room with interior fireplace at the base of the central chimney.

The next time you're in Sandwich on the Cape to visit Heritage Plantation, Hoxie House, or the Glass Museum, look to the right of Town Hall where at sidewalk's edge on shaded Grove Street, you'll see the little law office building that, with wing of equal size added to its rear, has been converted long since into two comfortable and charming apartments.

THE 1822 LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL TYLER IV IN BROOKLYN, CONNECTICUT

Now in its third year, the Brooklyn, Connecticut Historical Society owns, and is plan- to restore, the 15' square, gable-roofed, one-roomed Daniel Tyler IV's 1822 law office. It stands on a spacious lawn in the very center of that ancient town. Beside the chimney at the rear of the room is a panelled area with cupboards.

Tyler's grandfather, Revolutionary War General Israel Putnam, is buried under a most impressive equestrian statue directly in front of the office. Another grandfather, Daniel Tyler II, built Brooklyn's first meeting house in 1771. Originally Congregational, it became Connecticut's first Unitarian Church in 1816.

Daniel Tyler IV was born here in 1798 and died here Nov. 6, 1875. Educated at Plainfield (Connecticut) Academy, he became a lieutenant in the U. S. Army but resigning to practise law, he was admitted to the bar in 1822. He was active in that profession until his death 53 years later, and always much in demand as an eloquent speaker. He served as clerk of the Superior and County Courts of Windham County for 15 years before becoming County Court Judge and Secretary of State. During the Reconstruction he served under President Lincoln as Collector of Internal Revenue for the State of Arkansas.

After his death the building was successively used until 1963 as a doctor's office, a gift shop, and an insurance office. The President of the Society is Mrs. Leslie Travis Wendel who would welcome visitors from Weston and suggestions as to the restoration and preservation of her Town's early 19th Century Law Office.

PARKER LEARNED HALL'S LAW OFFICE (Circa 1822) AT SHEFFIELD

Very little has ever been written about the tiny building 12' wide, 20' deep, and 15' high that Parker Hall, Williams 1818, had built for his law practise around 1822 in Sheffield, Massachusetts. He had come from four years of apprenticeship in the Lenox, Massachusetts office of Joseph Woodbridge, Esq., for many years Clerk of Courts for Berkshire County. A native of Pownal, Vermont, Hall prepared for college at Lenox Academy. After practising for several years in Sheffield, he moved to Pittsfield where he amassed a substantial estate and died at 53 on August 29, 1849.

The office he left behind on what is known as "Sheffield Plain" was at that time in the very heart of Sheffield. Some folks, quoting hearsay, report the possibility that it might then have been the Sheffield headquarters of Great Barrington's famous Theodore Sedgwick. After a year at Williams, Sedgwick transferred to Yale whence he graduated in 1798, subsequently rising to the Speakership of the U. S. House of Representatives and finally becoming a U. S. Senator.

What happened after that to the little building is unknown. Until interested citizens recently busied themselves to form an historical society, it almost wasted away. Now a serious move to restore it and provide for its preservation is underway. Though not hip-roofed, it once must have had a central chimney with perhaps two fireplaces that heated the two pint-sized rooms. Nothing though is left of any chimney except what could have been its base under the flooring. A hole in one wall indicates that perhaps once a Franklin stove was used to heat the front room.

The transformation that we hope will be wrought within the next year or two will be watched with interest. Those backing the restoration have been fully briefed on the fun we had in rescuing our Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office five years ago.

JUDGE MELLEN'S 1826 LAW OFFICE AT WAYLAND, MASS.

Edward Mellen came to Wayland on the last day of November 1830. He had been born in Westborough, Mass. on September 26, 1802 and graduated from Brown in 1823. Thirty-one years later he received its LL.D. honorary degree. One of his closest friends then and for many significant years was Dr. Wayland, President of Brown. When what is now Wayland separated from the Town of Sudbury in 1835, Mellen had been a strong advocate of naming the new town after his friend. A dozen years later at a Brown Commencement, Dr. Wayland asked Mellen to convey to the Town of Wayland his willingness to donate five hundred dollars toward the establishment of a free library if the townspeople would match it. They did so, and that was the beginning of Wayland's Library.

On his arrival in Wayland (East Sudbury then) in 1830, Mellen bought the little white, two-roomed, hipped roofed law office with central chimney from Samuel H. Mann who had built it in 1826. Mann's health was failing (he died in 1838 aged only 38) and in 1831 sold his home also to Mellen. It was located a few doors to the west on the same Old Boston Post Road. In 1847 Mellen was made a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Twelve years later he became its Chief Justice. During these years he held court in Worcester, Springfield and Lenox. It is recalled that he refused to wear gloves while driving in his covered buggy. They "make my hands colder," he insisted.

Just during the past year, Judge Mellen's granddaughter, Mrs. Edmund H. Sears, donated this little building 25' broad and 11' deep to the Town of Wayland. As we go to press Wayland is receiving bids to move it safely away from an elm that's slowly uprooting it, and to restore it to good condition again. It will stand alone with dignity and grace under six protective elms and maples on the Town Green facing the Town Hall across the street where the Post Road crosses Cochituate Road. Weston has a close tie with this historic building. Two of the Judge's great grandsons, Brenton H. Dickson IIIrd and Edward Mellen Dickson, are among our most prominent citizens and fellow members. It will be remembered that these two, with their Weston cousins, Andrew F. and Harold B. Willis, Jr., are likewise the great great grandsons of our own Isaac Fiske.

THE 1830 AARON BROOKS LAW OFFICE IN PETERSHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Vacant and unused for the past sixty years is the Petersham law office of Aaron Brooks (1795-1845), grandson of Jonathan Grout who was a member of the General Court and Provincial Congress in 1775. Two of his great grandsons, Francis H. and Dr. John R. Brooks are residents of Weston.

An 1817 graduate of Brown and also a tutor there, Aaron studied law with Hon. Levi Lincoln in Worcester, and Hon. Lewis Bigelow, author of *Digest of the Massachusetts Reports* (1818). Returning to Petersham to practise law, he had built for him in 1830 a picturesque little building that measured 22' x 20'. The two rooms had a wide opening between them. A fireplace at the back heated them both. An 1877 interior view shows this detail, but about 1900 the partition was removed to make one large room with, — a fad at the time, — *shingled walls.*

An 1855 map contains a picture showing an ell which is probably the present back room measuring 14' x 14' where there is still a work bench and large round stove. The original furniture has been removed due to an early onslaught of post beetles. The Petersham Historical Society of which Mrs. Delight G. Haines is president, is working to repair and preserve the historic structure.

The office was used by Aaron's sons Francis (before he moved to Boston) and James W. who retired to Petersham in 1890 where he was active in remodeling houses and persuading relatives and friends to buy them. He rebuilt the hotel after it burned at the turn of the century, supervised the building of the High School, and gave land for the Harvard Forestry School. Aaron Brooks and his wife, Martha Amelia Willson, also had two daughters, Martha and Abby. Martha never married and when her brother James died, she continued to live in the old family homestead. "Her great contribution to our Society", says Mrs. Haines, "was the copying *and* indexing of old Town Records. Our copy is much more useful than the original records: —all in one handwriting and indexed! She also gave the land for our Society's building . . ." Her sister Abby married John Fiske who adopted Petersham as home base for many of his writings. He as well as the two brothers, Francis and James W. Brooks, used the law office during this era. (See also *Petersham Sketches,* Pages 192 and 193, — and Coolidge's *History of Petersham*).

DANIEL WEBSTER'S 1842 LAW OFFICE AT MARSHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

World renowned Daniel Webster came to settle down in Marshfield, Massachusetts in 1832 when only 49 years of age. He bought the large farm once owned by the fugitive Tory, Nathaniel Ray Thomas, from the latter's son John who stipulated that he be allowed to live out his days on the place he loved. Webster agreed to this proviso and asked for himself only that he be known henceforth as "The Farmer of Marshfield". Soon he added 1,500 acres to his already large estate.

He built his law office in 1842 and spent his mornings there writing and assembling as his hobby, a large collection of natural history. His one story, one room office was 17' wide, 25' long, and 15' tall. On each side of the fireplace at the rear were two floor-to-ceiling windows, each in three sections comprising 12 panes and running on a triple track to admit the afternoon's cheerful, warm sunlight. Of all the many structures on his estate, this building was the sole survivor of the fire that occurred in 1878, 26 years after his death. In 1966 it was moved to the grounds of the historic 1699 Winslow House. It had been located in one corner of his garden, and he would be delighted today if he could see it on the north lawn of the Winslow House overlooking the herb garden off the kitchen.

At the dedication of the newly located and restored building, on July 4, 1970, one of the speakers, Chairman of the Marshfield Historical Commission, reminded her hearers that "this small office was the scene of Webster's negotiations with Lord Asburton over the northern boundary between Canada and the United States" and that many indeed were the important political figures and statesmen who conferred with him here. In its restoration the whole building underwent the same "scraping, sanding, papering, painting, plastering, bolstering, furnishing, and landscaping" so familiar to those of us who have engaged in similar undertakings. The interior is painted in the olive green color found when layers of paint were removed to reach the original color.

Furnishings include his desk and a cane he is said to have made from one of the trees on his estate a mile up the road. The room also includes maps and relics, chairs, clothing, books, pictures, newspaper clippings, and artifacts of the colorful Webster era. Browsing here, one cannot fail to feel the presence of greatness in this picturesque, historical setting.

Acknowledgements of cooperation are gratefully made to many fine people, especially Ralph Bloom and John Gaydosh in Norwalk, William L. Warren of Litchfield, Mrs. Lawrence Romaine of Middleboro, Mrs. Raymond F. Leonard and Miss Nancy C. Campbell in Woodstock, Vermont, Mrs. Leslie T. Wendel of Brooklyn, Connecticut, Mrs. Edwin F. Rossman of Paris, Maine; Mrs. Virginia Vose of Storrowton Village Museum, and Mr. George W. Brick, president of The Eddy Family Association, Inc.; Miss Martha Green of Wayland and Bennington College; Mr. Russell A. Lovell, Jr. and William G. Bryden of Sandwich; Mrs. Kurt G. Preiss of Sheffield; Mrs. Delight G. Haines of Petersham; and (Mrs.) Cynthia Hagar Krusell of Marshfield. Without their contributions and patience and without the suggestions and encouragement of many other friends, the "dig" would have been less fruitful. And now I wonder how many additions to this list will be inspired by this beginning.

THE BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

All organizations, associations or individuals devoted to the ideals of preserving and protecting the rich heritage of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America are eligible for membership. Over two hundred local societies and commissions are active voting members. Individuals are invited to join as associate members for $5 per year. Such membership entitles one to all privileges except voting that his local society enjoys. To support this great work and to keep intimately in touch with all phases of the League's work and of the activities of all other societies in the Commonwealth, is most worthwhile. The mutual exchange of ideas at meetings and in the quarterly bulletin that comes to you direct, involves pleasant association with our leaders in the historical field. To become an associate member, simply send your check, payable to The Bay State Historical League, to Box 266, North Andover, Massachusetts 01845.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BULLETIN

January 1973, Vol. IX, No. 2

An old photograph of the Jonas Sanderson place at the southwest corner of Highland Street and Love Lane.

The house was destroyed by fire in 1897. It commanded a sweeping view to the north, east and west. Jonas Sanderson is said to have kept a beacon near his house for transferring signals from the seacoast to the interior. When the beacon was erected or how often it was used is not known. In the town records for 1778-9 we find reference to payment for guarding the "Baken erected in sd Town of Weston" and in 1779 Jonas Sanderson and others were paid 12 pounds 8 shillings for guarding the "Bacon". In 1781 however Sanderson's name does not appear among those who were paid for guarding the *beacon*. Further research is currently being done on this interesting subject.

WINTER MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 30TH

The next meeting of our Society will take place on Tuesday evening, January 30th, at 8 P.M. in the Ball Room of The Josiah Smith Tavern. The speaker will be one of our own charter members, Mr. Homer C. Lucas, whose topic will be "THE FUN OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH."

Since his retirement as head of Ginn and Company, Mr. Lucas has thrown himself vigorously into the work of our Society. He was one of the five members of our organization to be named as members of The Weston Historical Commission when it was adopted by the Town in 1969. Currently he is its chairman. His outstanding accomplishments as President and Director of the TAVERNKEEPERS of the GOLDEN BALL TAVERN speak eloquently not alone of his leadership but of his dedication to this community and of his devotion to its history. In whatever he undertakes he exhibits a joyfulness and zest that is contagious. We can look forward to an unusually happy evening January 30th as he takes us behind the scenes of some of his fascinating and fruitful research activities. Refreshments by our Hospitality Committee will be served.

SEQUEL TO THE ARTICLE ON EARLY LAW OFFICES OF NEW ENGLAND

Immediately after our last BULLETIN had gone to press featuring THOSE EARLY 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY LAW OFFICES, a lady in Sandwich, Massachusetts sent us a photostatic copy of an old-time RIPLEY "BELIEVE IT OR NOT" cartoon which contained a sketch of Seth Nye* beneath which appeared the following caption:

AN ATTORNEY OF
Sandwich, Mass.
FOR YEARS BEFORE
HIS DEATH IN 1850
NEVER CHARGED ANY
MORE THAN
$9.99
-BECAUSE HE FELT NO
LAWYER COULD JUSTIFY
A FEE OF $10

As expected our article created widespread interest and many copies have been distributed in the communities where the fifteen early law offices are still standing. Weston has received much favorable publicity. One letter even suggests that the article be enlarged and put into book form. Within the past month two more such buildings have been revealed and after their stories have been developed and verified, we shall include them as a supplement in a forthcoming issue.

*See Page 7 October 1972 BULLETIN.

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"

At its December meeting, the Board of Directors voted to express through these columns its sincere appreciation for those many special 1972 contributions by members in addition to their regular dues. The schedule of dues is kept low enough to enable anyone to belong and share in our fellowship and program.

Every effort is made to keep expenses within our budget and each year to date we have succeeded in spending less than our income. The additional amounts added as voluntary contributions by those who are able and so inclined, have enabled us to do more than would otherwise have been possible. Such contributions are welcomed at all times and will be put to good use either for a special project designated by the donor or as the directors may determine.

In addition memorial gifts are added as *Memorials* in our regular Endowment Fund. The aim is to double the present size of this Endowment Fund, the income of which only may be spent. To date the directors have not used any Endowment Fund income, their policy having been to let it accumulate until the capital sum attains the $10,000 figure.

According to established policy all life memberships are automatically placed in the Endowment category. The balance of the Fund has come from bequests and from special gifts earmarked for that purpose. At an annual rate of 5½%, the income on a $10,000 Endowment is $550, the equivalent of 110 regular memberships. It would obviously be useful year after year in furthering the purposes of our Society.

THE STORY OF A DOORSTONE

By Brenton H. Dickson 3rd

The granite doorstone at the front entrance of the Golden Ball Tavern, given in memory of Mrs. John B. Paine, has an interesting history. At one time or another it belonged to an innholder, a Governor of Massachusetts, and a President of the United States.

It was originally at the front door of a hostelry kept by one Jonathan Bullard on Wellesley Street a little south of its intersection with South Avenue. Today only a few lilac bushes mark the location of the old building. All other traces were obliterated when the land was graded for the High School playing fields.

From 1757 until 1770 Jonathan Bullard had a license to sell liquor. At present nothing is known about the inn other than that licenses were issued for all of those years and that Bullard continued living there until his death in 1778. Under the terms of his will, the easterly end of the house was left to his widow, the northern wing with the easterly portion of his land to his eldest son Jonathan, and the south end of the house and the westerly portion of the real estate to his youngest son Isaiah. His will also specified that his slave was to be provided for . . . "if he deserves it."

Son Jonathan moved to Oakham, Massachusetts and in 1788 sold his share of the Weston farm to Moses Gill whose 3,000 acre estate in Princeton, Massachusetts with its pretentious mansion house, was considered one of the grandest places "this side of Delaware." In 1795 Gill acquired the rest of the Bullard farm in Weston as well as adjacent properties so that in 1799 his Weston landholdings exceeded 348 acres.

Moses Gill (1734-1800) became Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts in 1794 and when Governor Increase Sumner died in 1799, its 4th chief executive. Gill lived beyond his means and when he died on May 20, 1800 he was indebted to his brother-in-law Thomas Boylston to the extent of over $106,000. The executor of Thomas Boylston's estate, Ward N. Boylston,* went after the Gill estate to recover what he could of the debt. In the settlement all Gill properties were turned over to the Boylston estate at appraised value. In 1819 Ward Boylston bought the Weston land himself. When he died in 1828 he left it all to his personal friend and counsellor, John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States.

As manager of his father's properties, Charles Francis Adams made frequent trips to Weston to inspect the farm which was let out to tenant farmers. The following excerpts from his diary have to do with these trips. " . . .we stopped to look at the farm which father had obtained by the singular bequest of Mr. Boylston. It is in miserable

*Ward N. Boylston was the son of Benjamin and Mary Boylston Hallowell. As a young man he changed his name to Boylston and according to Bond's History of Watertown, "has made it illustrious by his benefactions."

condition and not likely to be better in his hands. He had better part with it if we can find any purchaser."

". . . to Weston to see about the sale of hay off the place. This took an amazing long time but sold tolerably well. I amused myself with entering into conversation with the different farmers and attempting to extract information on various rustic subjects. The farm appears in tolerable condition since the tenants undertook it, and though it is pretty much of a dead weight upon his hands, all he (JQA) would wish would be that it did not run him into debt."

Subsequently the tenant farmer, Mr. Conant, "came to tell me that he was apprehensive he should be unable to keep it on his lease . . . He appeared discouraged and said the farm would be likely to run him in debt . . . but I tried to encourage him by telling him he now saw the worst side and that it would improve." And on a cold September day he wrote "We immediately took to the kitchen fire, and with the assistance of this externally and the revivifying influence of something internal properly administered, we began to feel able to do something."

Adams then went into the woods with the tenant and auctioneer to decide what wood was to be sold. "This job being finished, we returned to the house and dined. The tenants had made preparation for us and it was essentially necessary that I should so far assent to their arrangements as not to appear too proud to sit down with them. We made quite a dinner party and had a very tolerable meal upon chickens."

On another expedition to Weston to sell wood at auction, he wrote "We remained out all day, having only some crackers and cheese and rum for the whole of our dinner. I confess I did not like much the nature and character of the company, because they were very coarse, but I adapted myself as well as I could to my situation which in all places is wisest, and so I talked with all who would talk with me."

Annual sales from the farm brought revenue each year in excess of $500, and the Adams family retained possession of the property until 1822 when it was sold to General Charles J. Paine. The old building used to be called the "Soldiers' Home" because at one time some Revolutionary War soldiers were boarded there by a tenant farmer. Certain unmarked gravestones in the old cemetery on South Avenue are supposedly where two of these soldiers lie buried.

As for the doorstone, it seems certain that it dates back at least to Jonathan Bullard's ownership, as neither Gill, Adams, nor Boylston ever lived there. By Paine's time the house was in such poor repair that it had to be demolished. During its razing, wooden shutters and wainscoating were rescued and later installed as panelling in another Weston residence. The door stone remained on the old Bullard property until the 1930's when it was moved to the Paine house on Highland Street and installed in the floor of a conservatory. Last July when this house was demolished, the historic stone was most appropriately moved to its present location.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

"A YEAR OF ACTIVITY"

As reported at the Annual Meeting on November 2nd, numerous valuable historical papers, books, and artifacts have been donated to the Society during the year,—a fact that is most gratifying and which we hope points to a continuing realization that such items are of great value, particularly when assembled in a convenient and readily available place such as the Josiah Smith Tavern most certainly is. At this point it is perhaps well to remind members that our Historical Society rooms there are open every Wednesday from 2 to 4 P.M. (1 to 3 please in January and February) and by appointment. During the year many individuals, groups, local school classes and scout troops have been greeted by our Curator, Mrs. Fraser, and her committee.

Our Historian and several active members, have continued the research and sorting of historical material and have made progress in authenticating or disproving many facts of Weston's history. As the Historian puts it there are numerous cases of "overdocumented hearsay" (see January 1972 BULLETIN: Ed.) and it is not only fascinating to track down the true facts but it is historically significant to do so.

As has become our custom, we had three lecture meetings, including the annual Charter Anniversary Dinner in April, which were well attended and well received. Also monthly through the winter small discussion groups were held under the aegis of Mr. James B. Muldoon on interesting and unusual legal aspects of historical happenings and cases in Massachusetts' earlier days.

The officers, directors, and members involved themselves in numerous other affairs. Here are a few examples: the taking of land involving historic buildings for a possible cross town road,—a measure that was defeated at Town meeting,—the conducted historic tours of the Town by bus and by foot for Junior High and younger students and scouts,—the deterioration of the controversial but nonetheless historical Norumbega Tower,—the survey of houses along the historic Boston Post Road for the Weston Historical Commission, and the microfilming by the Mormon Society of our Society, Church, and Town records.

The BULLETIN which has received so many commendations not only within our membership but from outside have, we trust, been of interest and have kept our members informed as to our continuing activities. An active membership is vital to the Society and we hope this will never slacken. Be proud to solicit your neighbor for membership, and finally thanks are due to you all for your membership and to those many who have contributed over and above their annual dues either in material gifts or through giving of their time and talents.

Edward W. Marshall

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into membership Mrs. Harold Alcaide of 105 Westchester Drive, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Ellis of 3 Viles Street, Miss Helen Green (daughter of charter member the late Marion Green) of 811 Boston Post Road, and, from Wayland, Mrs. Edmund H. Sears, granddaughter of Judge Edward Mellen whose 1826 law office was one of the features of our last issue.

IMPORTANT COMING EVENTS
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Winter Meeting: January 30, 1973 8:00 P.M.

Josiah Smith Tavern Ball Room

Speaker: Homer C. Lucas: *THE FUN OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH*

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH

Speaker and Location will be announced in our March BULLETIN. Meanwhile *save the date* for this traditional evening, and plan to bring a new member.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The following directors were elected at the annual meeting of members on November 2nd to serve for three years or until their successors are elected: Brenton H. Dickson 3rd, Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Grant M. Palmer Jr., and Harold G. Travis.

The directors then elected:

Edward W. Marshall, *President*
Donald D. Douglass, *Vice President*
John G. Brooks, *Secretary*
Roy L. Dickson, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Allan W. Fulkerson, *Recording Secretary.*

The following committee chairmen have been appointed by the President and ratified by the Directors:

Auditor: Harry B. Jones
THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis, Editor
Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser
Garden: Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine
Historian: Brenton H. Dickson 3rd
Hospitality: Mrs. Reginald D. Wells
Law Office: Mrs. Harold G. Travis
Legal Counsel: Grant M. Palmer, Jr.
Program: Mrs. Kirkbride Patterson
Public Relations and Membership: Donald D. Douglass

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
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and mailed to P.O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1973, Vol. IX, No. 3

THE BALDWIN TAVERN

The old Baldwin Tavern which later became the home of Isaac Fiske, stood diagonally across the street from his law office and was destroyed by fire in 1890. According to Lamson's *History of Weston* it was in 1762 that Captain Samuel Baldwin succeeded Isaac Woolson in this tavern which thereafter was known as *Baldwin's Tavern.* Isaac was a grandson of Thomas Woolson who kept Weston's first tavern, the story of which is to be found on Page 3 of this issue.

Captain Baldwin figured largely in town affairs throughout the Revolution. At the time of the Shays Rebellion in 1787, the troops from Boston are said to have bivouacked one night along our road, the officers lodging at the Baldwin Tavern. In 1815 the tavern became the property of Isaac Fiske and here he made his home until his death in 1861.

Rebecca, the wife of Captain Baldwin, kept a diary from 1756 to 1787 which is quoted in both *Lamson's History* and Ripley's *"Weston, A Puritan Town."* It is also listed among various 18th Century New England manuscripts but so far this diary has eluded our search. A more complete history of the *Baldwin Tavern* is being prepared for a subsequent issue.

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER
APRIL 26, 1973

The featured speaker at our annual Charter Anniversary Dinner on Thursday evening, April 26th in the Senior High School Cafeteria is to be Mr. Dean A. Fales, Jr., well known authority on antique furniture, author, historian, Cooperstown lecturer, and consultant to various museums. He lives in Kennebunkport, Maine, was formerly the director of the Essex Institute in Salem, and is active in many interests, including Old Sturbridge Village where he serves as a trustee.

His subject will be *WILLIAM BENTLEY, COLLECTOR, DIARIST, AND NOSEY MINISTER OF SALEM.* Mr. Fales in his delightful style will talk of this nationally important man who was one of the first collectors of 17th Century historical materials. Bentley lived most of his life in the famous Crowinshield-Bentley House of Salem.

Early in April you will receive all details by mail from the Committee, but it is important meanwhile that you save the date: Thursday evening, April 26th. Plan to attend this traditionally enjoyable and worthwhile highlight of the Society's year.

DR. KENDAL'S CENTENNIAL SERMON
TRUE THEN – TRUER NOW

Rev. Samuel Kendal, D.D. spoke to his Weston Congregation 160 years ago, January 12, 1813, on the "Termination of a Century", and his opening sentences are significant today. He was speaking in our old 1722 meetinghouse as the climax of the Town's Centennial commemoration of its incorporation. He died in the following year and of all his orations, this has proved the most enduring.

> "To examine the records of antiquity is not an idle curiosity, nor useless labour. They not only gratify an inquisitive mind, but impart profitable instruction to every succeeding generation. They exhibit virtues worthy of imitation, or rear beacons to admonish those who live in subsequent times, of the dangers to which they are exposed . . .
>
> "We can contemplate transactions and events of a remote date without that excitement and interest, which those of a similar nature, passing in our time, often produce in our feelings; and we can always judge best what is right when passion and interest have the least influence on our decision . . . It is therefore a dictate of sound wisdom and of common prudence, to consider the days of old, the years of ancient times."

Since the Weston Historical Society started just a decade ago, it is gratifying to note the ever increasing research activities of so many Weston people. They are coming to agree that one *find* is worth a dozen frustrations. As we contemplate many forthcoming commemorations, we invite more members to join in uncovering bygone days and people, and in preserving the precious relics of yesteryear that are still here. If you're looking for a project, we have many suggestions, for indeed, the more *diggers* the greater treasures.

The motto of Weston's Independent Light Infantry was:

> "Let all the ends thou aimet at, be thy Country's
> Thy God's and Truth's."

THE WOOLSON TAVERN

As far as we know the earliest tavern in Weston, or "Watertown Farms", was run by Thomas Woolson. At present the exact location is not known. We find that in 1672 he bought 250 acres of land from Richard Norcross, and in 1697 the farm of John and Richard Coolidge. This second acquisition was made eleven years after he was issued his first license to sell liquor (1686).

In 1737 his grandson Isaac Woolson petitioned the Court of Sessions for a continuation of his license "having moved his house some distance from the original site." This probably means that he moved his business, not the building. There have been theories expressed that the second site was near the corner of Fiske Lane and the Post Road where Samuel Baldwin kept a tavern for many years in the 18th century.

There is no record of how long Woolson had been selling liquor before he got his license in 1686. We find the following entry in the 1685 court record: "Thomas Woolson of Watertown appearing before the court and being convicted of selling strong drink without license contrary to the law, is fined twenty shillings or to sett one hour in the stocks and to pay costs of eight shillings."

Evidence presented to the court indicated that Woolson had more friends than enemies in the neighborhood. His principal enemies, Joseph and Benjamin Harrington, testified in writing that they "saw Woolson and some of his family sell both cyder and rhum to some persons, and received money for same," and they presented a receipted bill as evidence. Among his friends we find John Perry and Jonathan Stanhope.

STATEMENT OF JOHN PERRY – "that in the last 10 or 12 years he has spent much time in the Woolson family and took notice that Woolson went to great trouble and expense to take care of travellers with meat and drink and cared for their horses. When asked what they had to pay, Woolson replied he kept no ordinary and they were welcome to what he gave them."

STATEMENT OF JONATHAN STANHOPE – "that he had received food and drink of Woolson and that he never demanded or took satisfaction for the same."

In a petition to the court Woolson stated that he did not "entertain town dwellers, children or servants by selling them drink nor did he sell for gain but only for the relief of persons in their necessity." He further stated that "he does not fully understand the matter for which he is complained of (selling liquor) and also asks the favor of the court that he shall not be wanting the means for obtaining an ordinary legally."

In answer to the petition of Thomas Woolson "for respiting the fine of 20 shillings imposed upon him at a former court for transgressing the law . . . this court doth order a respiting the taking of said fine until further order be given. He giving bond in five pound not to transgress any more of that kind, 5 pound to be forfeited on condition that after the first of May next he will in all respects obey the law."

So it looks as if he was spared the ignominious hour in the stocks which must have been a disappointment to the Harringtons!

—Brenton H. Dickson 3rd—

In the year 1686 when Thomas Woolson took out his first license, Middlesex County Court Records tell us that the following were the

DUTIES OF AN INNHOLDER

"All the licensed persons . . . to Retail within Doors, did acknowledge severally bound unto our Sovereign Lord James the Second of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King etc. in a Recognizance of ten pounds to be paid by each of them unto our said Sovereign Lord the King—his Heirs and Successors. On condition that they and every of them (being licensed for one whole yeare from the day of the date herof, and not longer) shall not permit, suffer, or have any playing at Dice, Cards, Tables, Quoits, Loggers, Bowles, Ninepins, Billiards or any other unlawful game or games in their or any of their Houses, Yards, Gardens or Bucksides, nor shall suffer to be or remain in their Houses any person or persons not being of their owne families on Saturday nights after it

is dark, nor on the Sabbath day; nor shall entertain as lodgers in their Houses any strangers, Men or Women, above the space of forty-eight hours (other than such as they shall engage for their forthcomming) without acquainting their Constables or Selectmen with the same. Nor shall entertain in their Houses, or sell any wines or liquors, to any Indians or Negroes; nor suffer any children or servants or any other persons to remain in their Houses, tipling or drinking contrary to law; nor yet to be there tipling or drinking after nine of the Clock in the night time; nor buy or take to pawne any stollen goods; nor willing to Harbour in their House, Barnes, Stables, or otherwise any other notorious offenders whatsoever; nor shall sell any Beere, Ale, Cyder, wine or other Liquors but by due and sealed measures . . . nor shall entertaine any person or persons of whom they shall be prohibited by any of His Majesty's Council or Justices of the Peace as persons of an idle conversation and given to tipling. But shall in their said Houses use and maintain good order and rule . . ."

ANOTHER WESTON MYSTERY: WHERE IS (WAS) "CORNWALLIS FIELD?" Page 911 in Bigelow's HISTORY OF THE WESTON INDEPENDENT LIGHT INFANTRY tells us: "The anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis (October 19, 1781) was celebrated this day on 'Cornwallis field' in Weston.

"General Washington was represented by Alpheus Bigelow Jr. Esq. and Lord Cornwallis by Captain Abraham Hews. The Weston Independent Light Infantry under Orderly Sergeant Francis A. Pickering, and the Waltham Light Infantry represented the British troops under Lord Cornwallis, and a company of continentallers commanded by Captain Alpheus Bigelow, with Captain Nathan Fiske as Lieutenant and Captain Josiah Hastings as Ensign, together with the Weston company of militia Captain John Jones commanding composed the American forces. An aboriginal tribe under the command of Jonathan Warren, Jr. was present and acted . . . The Indians were the wonderment and terror of the small boys being 'appropriately dressed primed and armed.' in addition to their warlike performances they also indulged in some fun of their own as opportunity offered. Among the spectators was Mrs. Joab Leadbetter a well known resident of Weston, – no sooner was she observed by the red men than, brandishing their tomahawks and uttering the terrible warhoops, they chased the frightened woman from the field.

N.B. Mr. Abijah Coburn informed me as to the troops present and their officers. When the ceremony of surrender took place, Lord Cornwallis's part thereof was performed in silence, he made no speech. So my father Alpheus Bigelow, Junior informed me. (s) Frank W. Bigelow"

A REMARKABLE JOURNAL

Not many people have had the opportunity to read the handsomely bound, meticulously handwritten *HISTORY OF LIGHT INFANTRY COMPANY THIRD DIVISION MASSACHUSETTS MILITIA* which was compiled by Frank Winthrop Bigelow (1833 - 1904), son of Alpheus Bigelow, Jr. In his preface, this compiler of almost one thousand pages modestly notes: "As opportunity has offered, many which might otherwise have proved idle hours, have been agreeably and as I trust not unprofitably passed in making these researches and collecting them in book form." Quotations from this volume follow:

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 1797. The Weston company of Independent Light Infantry assembled at Flagg's Tavern for an annual May inspection and drill. Present Captain Bigelow, Lieutenant Whitney, Ensign Fisk, four sergeants, 3 drummers and fifers, 36 rank and file. The place of exercise for Captain Bigelow's company was the piece of ground opposite the Lamson estate whereupon Mr. Charles Merriam afterwards built a house and resided some years; in later times the home of George Bigelow, Thomas Bigelow Jones, and E. O. Clark. Amos Harrington also allowed the I.L.I. Company the free use of the field opposite their regular place of parade, i.e., Flagg's, afterwards Stratton's Tavern.

During this day's parade the company having halted and being at rest the Ensign was much annoyed by the boys running to and fro in front of him, and kicked at them, losing his patience and balance at one and the same time, the colours going in one direction, his chapeau in another while he himself lay sprawling on the ground.

Amused at the sight, Captain Bigelow exclaimed "What's the matter Ensign Fisk?" "Matter", he replied, "Matter enough, damn it!"

On this or some other occasion while he commanded the Weston I.L.I. Company occurred the following incident which affords an example of the captain's ready wit. Marching in front of his company he came to a sudden stop on the very brink of a stream of water; turning hastily to his men he gave the command "Whoa" instantly correcting himself and adding "If you will act like steers I must talk to you like as if you were."

(From the History of the Weston Independent Light Infantry, Pages 135-6. The compiler notes "The above was given to me by Mr. Benjamin Roberts of Weston, and Mr. Isaac Child of Waltham whose father was the tenth Captain of the Weston I.L.I. Company.")

DEATH OF GENERAL WASHINGTON

GENERAL ORDERS **HEADQUARTERS, BOSTON, Jan. 1, 1800**

In order to express the deep regret and heartfelt sorrow with which every American citizen must be affected by the decease of General George Washington, America's best and most endeared friend, the Commander-in-Chief orders that the Officers and Soldiers of the Militia of this Commonwealth wear their Military Uniforms every Sunday for six months from the date hereof, with a black crepe on the left fore arm, just above the cuff, and that the hilts of the Officers' swords be also covered with black.

By Order of the Commander-in-Chief,
William Dennison, Adjutant General

AT WESTON

When a Washington dies, who can restrain the tears? Patriots weep: Genius and Literature bewail their bereavement: not a city, town, nor village on the continent that feels not the loss! On Friday last, the inhabitants of Weston met to mingle their sorrows, and weep for the loss of their Father. Every movement was mournful,—every countenance expressed the sad feelings of the heart.

A large procession judiciously arranged by a respectable committee under the escort of Capt. Bigelow's Light Infantry moved with solemn step from Capt. Flagg's Tavern to the Meeting-house. The music was expressive of sorrow.

The Meeting-house was clad in the vesture of mourning.

Solemnities upon the occasion were introduced by a pertinent prayer by the Rev. Mr. Stearns of Lincoln,—Sermon by the Parson of the Town,—concluding prayer by the Rev. Mr. Bridge of East Sudbury. After services several ceremonies were performed by the (Light) Infantry Company with regularity, order, and decorum. Each citizen soon returned to his dwelling, immersed with sad reflections.

Columbia Centinel of Saturday, January 18, 1800.

Sir: Feby. 18th, 1800

Having for some time past enjoyed a state of health which has unfitted me for performing the duties of a military life, and continuing so unwell as to be wholly unable to do active service should I be called thereto, I am induced to request your Honor's permission to resign my command of a Company of Light Infantry in the first Brigade and Third Division of the Militia of this Commonwealth.

I am with the highest respect
your Honor's most obed't humble Serv't.

(s) Alpheus Bigelow

His Honor Moses Gill, Esq.
Commander-in-Chief of the Militia of
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1973 Vol. IX, No. 4

THE COBURN HOMESTEAD: 153 CHURCH STREET

Here still is OLD WESTON at its best. The house was built "circa 1726" and in the past 247 years there has been only one change in family ownership. Jeremiah Whittemore and his wife, Patience, moved to Weston early in 1726 from Rumney Marsh, Suffolk County. They were "received into This Church" on February 26 of that year and on the following November 15th, their third son, Isaac, was "Born in Weston." In time he headed as Captain a small company of Artillery during the Revolution and served many years as Selectman. The house remained in the Whittemore family through Aaron, his son, until 1801 when the latter, for $4,400, sold this place to Jonas Coburn.

Its 120 acres extended almost to the center of town to land owned by Rev. William Williams, and westward to Lamson land that ranged from what is now the Town Green northward as far as today's Fairview and Pinecroft Roads. Jonas's father lived on Chestnut Street in the "Luther Upham House" and in the 172 years that have elapsed since 1801, the house pictured above has remained in the Coburn family through Jonas's son, Isaac, his grandson Arthur L. Coburn, and the latter's daughter, its present occupant. From 1789 to the present, we can quickly count 52 years of Coburn service as selectmen and 5 years as representatives to the General Court. A recital of all offices filled would be lengthy indeed. The story of the part this family has played in the development of our town would make a most worthwhile book, an inkling of which is suggested on Pages 58 and 59 of ONCE UPON A PUNG.

This house and its setting is a favorite of painters at all seasons of the year. A great-granddaughter of Jonas Coburn is one of our charter members and lives today at 190 North Avenue. We refer to Miss Anna Hall and during a pleasant morning recently spent with her, she brought forth from a drawer in her desk a neatly written little booklet, unsigned but dated December 1893. Tied with blue ribbon it instantly caught our fancy and as it gives such clear insight into what wholesomeness prevailed in those faraway days, we share it verbatim with you on the following page.

John Howard Payne has told us in his worldwide, famous song "There's No Place Like Home", but how doubly interesting this sentiment is, when the house proves to be the old homestead of several generations and also one of the oldest houses in town.

To learn definitely any facts in regard to the first occupant of the Coburn Homestead is more than I have been able to do, although mention is made in the Town Records in 1754 of a certain Jeremiah Whittemore, presumably father of Aaron Whittemore, who in all probability lived in this house.

My first knowledge is that a certain tract of land of 120 acres, be the same more or less, was sold by Mr. Aaron Whittemore of Weston, November 1801, to Mr. Jonas Coburn of Waltham for $4,400.

It is supposed the whole farm originally extended to the center of the Town.

The elm trees when the house was bought in 1801 were probably from 50 to 75 years old then. The house was situated as at present, but was then minus the shed and in its place a sloping roof extended nearly to the ground, forming a one story room with bouffet.

The back door was on the north side and opened directly into the kitchen.

The house was built to face the south and the old chimney was the guide for the noon hour, when the rays of the sun were on a direct line with the face of the chimney.

What was used as the shed in those days was built on a high bank wall 80 feet from the house on the southeast side of the front. It was open at both ends so an oxen load of wood could be driven into it.

During a great snowstorm the first or second year after the Fitchburg Railroad was started say in 1844 the engineer on a certain train got out of wood and was much pleased to get firewood here which had been stored for two or three years, for it made the old engine "hum" as all on board said.

In the back part of the shed were placed the vinegar hogsheads. A Hog pen was near and on its sloping roof they put things out to dry.

A chaisehouse stood nearby with a chamber overhead, built after Jonas Coburn, the owner, was married. In front of the house was a board fence, but in 1847, Mr. Otis Wheeler of Watertown built the present picket fence to replace it. A well with bucket and chain was at the back door, and the well house curb was sold years ago and removed to the house owned by Mr. E. J. Brown and occupied by Mr. Otis Houghton.

In the garden below the house grew oldfashioned herbs, such as horse radish (to be found there even now), sage, balm, sweet majoram, and catnip, and it is related that when one of the sons of Jonas Coburn was selling balm, an Irish woman remarked "Balm, oh yes, Balm of Gilead,—good for sores, I'll take some."

The house originally had but one cellar, but another was dug out under the west room. The Chaisehouse had for its occupant an old family chaise, and rumor says one of the sons took this vehicle to go wooing his fair lady in the southern part of the town. This house and buildings adjoining were torn down after the present barn and shed were built in 1841.

Previously in 1830, the roof at the northeast corner where a low chamber had been, was raised and an attic (in those days called a garret) was added above.

There were no back stairs till then and all the corn had to be carried up the front stairs to steps directly above the landing to an old attic and often at night the slumbers of the household were disturbed by the rats and corn rattling overhead.

A porch was built on in 1841 for the old folks and the lovers now wedded desired to make two distinct households and the rooms were divided accordingly.

Inside the house are the customary brick oven and ash hole, fireplaces with the cranes, churns, and chests, but no weights to the windows can be found. . . . . .

The old house has sheltered many happy hearts and if sometimes the inmates bore less joyous faces, still to all comes joy and sorrow alike and every cloud has its silver lining.

"WHAT LIFE BUT HATH ITS TEARS:
SO SWEETER MADE
WHAT WERE THE SUNSHINE BUT
FOR THE SHADE?" . . . . .

DEC. 1893

Miss Hall believes the above was written by her Aunt Edith Laura Coburn (Aug. 3, 1854 - April 8, 1904); "the house owned by Mr. E. J. Brown and occupied by Mr. Otis Houghton" is today the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hazen Ackles, 70 North Avenue. . . .Ed.

HE SAID IT WELL

On Page 95 in Volume XII of *THE HEATH PAPERS* in the library of The Massachusetts Historical Society, we found a letter that one G. Washington wrote to General William Heath on October 27, 1778. In it the future father of our country declared "The Americans are generous, and where satisfied that people are their friends - - - they are not wanting in hospitality and acts of benevolence."

THE BEGINNING OF OUR SCHOOLS AND HOW WE PAID FOR THEM

When Weston was still part of Watertown and we were known as "The Farmers", we find in *WATERTOWN RECORDS* (prepared for publication by the Watertown Historical Society in 1894) that at a town meeting on August 15, 1649 it was agreed ". . . to Build a Schoole - house . . ." Then at a meeting of "the 7 men" less than three weeks later, September 2nd, 1649

> John Sherman is apointed to procuere the Schoole houſe Built: and to haue it built 22 foot long: and 14 foot wide and 9 foot betwene Joynts — alſo to git a penn of one aker of ground: fenced in with 4 Railes for the lodging a heard in the woods: and to procuer a ſmall houſe for lodging the heardsman: and to be done in ſuch a place as Deacon Child and himſelf ſhall thinke beſt: towards Sudbury Bounds

and a few pages later,

> Janeu. 12: 1651
> A Generall Towne meeting
> An agreement Betwene the
> Towne and mr Richard norcros
> That mr Richard Norcros ſhall attend the keeping of aſcoole Within the Bounds of Wattertowne where the Towne ſhall appoynt, That he ſhall vſe his beſt Indeauer to inſtruct all ſuch pſons as ſhall be ſent vnto him in Inglifh writeing or Latten according to the Capaffity of the pſons and that it is in the Li[berty] of any Inhabytant to ſend his ſonnes or ſeruant for a weeke or two and to take them away agayne at his pleſure, and therfore the ſayd Mr Norcros is to keepe a ſtrict accounte of the nomber of weekes that euery one Dooth Continew, And that euery pſon that learneth Inglifh only ſhall pay 3d aweeke and ſuch as write or Lattin ſhall pay 4d and that Mr Norcros is to giue notice to the pertickler parents of theyr Juſt Due accord ing to this order and If any pſon ſhall neglect to bring vnto his houſe his full Due by the 29 of the 8 month in 52 that then he ſhall bring anote of the names and the ſum of theyr debt vnto the 7 men who are hearby required to take ſome ſpeedy Courſe to [ ] him to his due

Year after year it seems, Richard Norcross was re-engaged and re-engaged but finally at a meeting of the selectmen on the 27th of March, 1677 we find that a *Lieutenant Shearmon* was engaged to "ceep an inglish scoole" and that at the same meeting, a

Joseph Underwood was hired to teach a certain Davis child to read and wright and sum authordox cattice!!!

Agreed wth leftenant shearmon to ceep an: inglifh fcoole this year and to begin the (9th) of eaprill at the fcoole houfe and the town to alow him twenty pounds in the town Reat that fhall be raized in this yeare (77) and if the faid leftenant dezireth to lay down his imployment at the years end then he fhall giue the town a quartur of ayears warning and if the town dezyreth to chang ther fcoole mafter thay fhall giue the like warning: the felect men agree allfoo that the faid fcoole fhall be cept from the furft of may to the laft of auguft: 8 owers in the day to witt to begin at feuen in the morning: and not to break vp: vntill fiue at night, noone time acfepted and from the laft of auguft vntill the laft of octobur 6 ouers in the day foo allfoo in the munths of march and Eaprill and the 4 winttur munths to begin at tenn of the clock in the morning and continnue vntill 2 a clock in the afternoone.

Agreed wth Jozeph vndurwood that he fhall haue the chilld of marah Dauifes which was wth his father put to him by the town and that he fhall be bound to him vntill he be 21 years of eage and Jofeph vndurwood to teach the boy to read and wright and fum authortox catticife and to find him meat drink and apparell futabell vnto fuch an aprentis and at the end of his time to alow him dubbell apparrell throw ought and Simon Stone to make the agrement betwene him and the boy and to record it in the town booke. Jofeph vndurwood apearing Befoore the felectmen this 20th of octobur 1684 owned this agrement as apeares by fetting toe his hand

in prefents of the felect men of watturtowne

Jofeph V vndurwood
His mark.

NO SUSPENDED SENTENCES IN THOSE DAYS!

Browsing through a Rhode Island Orderly Book of Revolutionary days recently, we came across this entry dated June 11, 1779 "Headquarters Field Officer Major Ball; At the same court Martial Cruix Cardale or Matross was tryed for Striking Peter David, a Bombadier, found guilty and Sentenced to receive Fifty Lashes on his Naked Back, to ask Bombadier David's pardon on the public parade, and to wear his coat wrong side outwards for a week."

INDEPENDENCE DAY AT WESTON 1801

The fourth of July was celebrated with that spirit of harmony and genuine federalism which has long characterized the inhabitants of that town. Firing, ringing of the bell, and the display of an elegant flag above the center of a beautiful grove near the Meeting House, announced the return of the joyous Anniversary of American Independence. At 9 o'clock, the Independent Light Infantry Company, highly respected for its military discipline and patriotic spirit, under the command of Capt. Nathan Fiske, paraded at the Meeting-House and performed various evolutions with its usual adroitness. At 11 o'clock it escorted a respectable procession to the house of the Rev. Mr. Kendal . . . The Rev. Mr. Kendal addressed the Throne of Grace in an appropriate and animated Prayer after which a spirited oration was delivered by Mr. Isaac Fiske . . . The company then escorted the procession to the grove where under its cooling shade all partook of an elegant dinner and with innocent hilarity drank the following Toasts.

1. The Day We Celebrate: May the glory of it never be tarnished by a dereliction of the principles of liberty and independence.
2. The government of our choice: May it bear the test of ages, and command the affection of all who enjoy its blessings.
3. United America: May she avoid the errors, and be exempted from the destiny of other republics.
4. The Commonwealth: forward in asserting, may she be firm in supporting the rights of man.
5. The President: May his administration be guided by wisdom, integrity, and impartiality; and appreciated by the scale of truth and justice.
6. Governor Strong: the man whom we delight to honor.
7. The high Departments of State: May they be freed from men of a *strange language.*
8. The able and faithful federal officers who under the *new order* of things have retired from office.
9. The Late President—great in office, dignified in retirement.
10. The Memory of Washington: America's glory, the world's admiration.
11. Peace to all Nations.
12. A speedy end to tyranny and oppression of every name and form.
13. The Clergy: May they never be denied the rights of citizens.
14. The Farmers: May their information and virtue equal the importance and respectability of their station.
15. The learned professions: May they be honoured by men of abilities and integrity.
16. The Fair Sex, heaven's last noblest work of creation: May they correct the taste, refine the manners, and improve the morals of man!

VOLUNTEERS: By Rev. Mr. Stearns: Military merit and patriotism deserve the most public notice: The Independent Light Infantry Company of Weston.

By Artemus Ward, Esq. The inhabitants of Weston: Adorned with moral, political, and social Virtues. May he never know what happiness is who interrupts their felicity.

By Another Person: The Orator of the Day! May the sentiments of liberty he inculcated, be imbibed and forever maintained by those who heard them.

The above account was from the *Columbia Centinel* of Wednesday, July 15, 1801.

NEW MEMBERS

Our roll of members steadily grows. The preservation of Weston's charm and character depends largely upon its people, and it is our aim to have the support of every family in Town. Don't hesitate to invite all your neighbors whether oldtimers or newcomers. It is easy to join. A check for $5 family, $3 single, or $200 life sent to Box 343 Weston, Mass. 02193 with their full names and addresses will be appreciated by the Membership Committee and by all officers and directors. With this issue we extend a hearty welcome to:

Miss Anne Cutter Coburn, 153 Church Street
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis E. Darby, 211 Meadowbrook Road
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Greason, Jr., 12 Conant Road
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney C. Little, 12 Jones Road
Mrs. Donald E. Magill, Jr., 132 Country Drive
Mr. and Mrs. James P. Maynard, 406 North Avenue
Mrs. William Hart Nichols, 19 Pelham Road
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Noonan, 136 Ridgeway Road
Capt. and Mrs. Allan P. Slaff, 5 Deerpath Lane
Dr. and Mrs. Donald R. Sohn, 55 Black Oak Road
Mr. and Mrs. Hollis K. Thayer of Brooklyn, New York

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1973, Vol. X, No. 1

1889 NORUMBEGA MEMORIAL TOWER 1973 RESTORATION

(See Story on Page 2)

June 20 July 9 July 30 August 14

ANNUAL MEETING
JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7th 8:00 P.M.

In keeping with tradition, brief reports of committees and officers will precede the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for three directors. The terms of Erlund Field, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols are expiring. Continuing for another year are Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, Mrs. Stanley G. French, and Donald D. Douglass, and for two more years Brenton H. Dickson, 3rd, Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., and Harold G. Travis.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, a program of home talent has been arranged that should be of interest to every member. The theme will be:

SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON WESTON'S PAST

In preparation for the oncoming Bicentennial, a great deal of careful research has been done on Weston during the Revolutionary period. Messrs. Douglass, Gambrill, Lucas, and Travis will each touch briefly on some new facts about that era that have been uncovered. It is hoped that a large attendance will fill the Ball Room for this meeting.

ANOTHER NOTEWORTHY RESTORATION IN WESTON

Pictured on page 1 are four stages of the rebuilding of the famous Norsemen's Tower which overlooks the winding Charles River off Norumbega Road in Weston. When he first took office as Metropolitan District Commissioner for the Commonwealth, we found Hon. John W. Sears most sympathetic to our plea for this restoration, but it took time and patience on the part of both of us while he worked out many problems of administration, priorities, and budget. Finally the good news came that the contract had been let, and we have since followed progress with real gratification and pride.

The wrought iron gates of this memorial tower will be locked to prevent recurrence of vandalism. When it was built in 1889 by Harvard's Professor Eben Norton Horsford, at his expense, it commanded a sweeping view of the Charles River Valley. Now the trees have overshadowed it, and until vistas are restored by careful pruning, the stairway will not be used except when opened for special occasions.

In the Weston Public Library's Justin Gale Memorial Room are the following publications by Professor Horsford:

1888: THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA BY NORTHMEN
1889: THE DISCOVERY OF THE ANCIENT CITY OF NORUMBEGA
1891: THE DEFENCES OF NORUMBEGA
1892: THE LANDFALL OF LEIF ERIKSON
1893: LEIF'S HOME IN VINELAND

The diggings below the Tower have long been a mystery. Perhaps they are only the remnants of some early raceway that drew power from Stony Brook as it poured into the Charles, or could they perhaps be hiding, as Horsford suspected and as the inscription indicates, the ruins of a city established by Norsemen in the late tenth Century? It is doubtful that any of us will ever know the answer, but at any rate and to his credit, Professor Horsford did a great deal to leave his findings and his reasonings to posterity. In an 1889 address he asserted:

> "I set up the Tower in Weston, at the mouth of Stony Brook, where I first found evidences of the work of the Northmen. Over the tablet set in the wall of the Tower, the genius of the architect, Mr. Tryon, has posed the Scandanavian Falcon (the symbol of sovereignty in Iceland) about to alight with a new world in his talons."

The original marble tablet, some ten feet tall, has been left undisturbed, and when you visit the Tower in its attractive, parklike setting, you will find engraved thereon:

A.D. 1000 A.D. 1889

NORUMBEGA

City County Fort River

NORUMBEGA – NOR-MBEGA
Indian utterance of Norbega the ancient form
of NORVEGA Norway to which the
Region of Vineland was subject

CITY

at and near Watertown
Where Remains today
Docks Wharves Walls Dams Basin

COUNTRY

Extending from Rhode Island to the St. Lawrence
first seen by Bjarni Herjulfson 985 A.D.
Landfall of Leif Erikson on Cape Cod 1000 A.D.
Norse Canals Dams Walls Pavements
Fort terraced places of Assembly remain today

FORT

At base of Tower and Region About
Was occupied by the Breton French in the
15th 16th and 17th Centuries

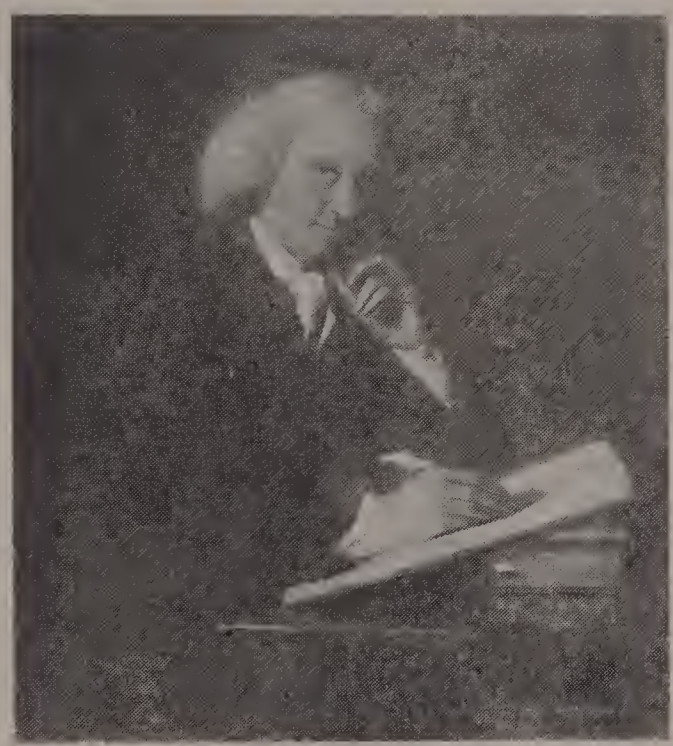
RIVER

The Charles

Discovered by Leif Erikson 1000 A.D.
Explored by Thorwald Leif's Brother 1003 A.D.
Colonized by Thorfinn Karlsefni 1007 A.D.
First Bishop/Erik Gnupson 1121 A.D.
Industries for 350 years
Masur-Wood (Burrs) Fish Furs Agriculture
Latest Norse Ship Returned to Iceland in 1347

THE FAMOUS DIARY
OF
WESTON'S SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE

Many of us recall the address of our fellow member, Stephen J. Riley, when we co-hosted with Wayland, the April 19th, 1969 spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. As director of Massachusetts Historical Society which is America's oldest historical organization, his subject was: THE HONORABLE SAMUEL SAVAGE, A WESTONIAN PROMINENT IN THE REVOLUTION. While hitting the high spots of events that happened just before, during, and after the American Revolution, he stressed many of the vital roles played by Weston's most notable patriot. Some of us, we again aver, must soon dedicate ourselves to the proper and complete presentation of Samuel Phillips Savage's part in American history.



nany other sides of this colorful figure's career, especially with its Weston
otations extracted from a diary he kept on subjects that attracted his
bservations. This diary is among the priceless archives to be found in the
Historical Society through whose courtesy we were privileged to examine
ges.

cold—Mrs. Savage returned with Mr. Hagar in Capt. Baldwin's chaise.
stalled as President of Harvard College.
Brown to talk abt. Water Course from Sandy Pond.
Elliot preached.

Bigelow	Selectmen	Brown
Mirick	for	Russell
B. Smith	Lincoln	dr. Brooks
Jones		Dr. Brooks
Herrington		Abbot
S. Baldwin		

leasant if had not had the Tooth Ache. (before Night had tooth extracted).
apple trees.
sheep (16 produced 45; wool).
s are busyer than ever.
ay at Boston tho the Court met at Cambridge. Dr. Chauncey preached an
rmon and 450 persons dined in the Hall across the Way on the Common
concluded with great Joy.
th Capt. Smith to Cambridge and Boston and returned. Extreme hot.
t 10 past 8 heard a rumbling noise which I judge to be Earthquake. (I
believe mistaken).

12 July planted 600 cabbages.
27 Aug. The corn on all high ground is curled up.
9 Oct. Mr. Hagar went with my Cart to Boston.
13 Oct. I have sore eyes.
20 Oct. The most terrible storm known for many years.

(At this point Savage explains)

The omission of observations on the weather was occasioned by a most terrible Felon, this remark I make 28 August 1770 and the Finger is still and, I fear ever will be, sore and in great measure useless. From 18 Oct. to this 23 Nov. I have been sorely afflicted with a Felon on my Finger. I kept Chamber 3 weeks.

Thanksgiving 6 Dec. (This was a *Friday!* Ed.)

Mon. 17 Dec. Went with Mr. Pigeon (Newton) to Salem.

Dec. 1770 I began to keep School for my own and Mr. Hagar's children about the 24th or 25th December and already find the advantage of it.

The Crime of Covetousness to me appears the Root of all the Evils we Suffer.

The General Court determined to stay in town and accordingly desired Dr. Chauncey to preach afternoon, which he did from the works of David: "Our fathers trusted in Thee and were delivered" to a full assembly. Mr. Mather prayed. between 400 and 500 then repaired to Fanieul Hall where a very elegant Dinner was provided. 70 Clergymen dined there. An ox was roasted whole on the Common and given to the Poor.

One thing to Remember,—Never to put Hog Dung on Cabbage. I fear I have lost 500 in the lower part of my Garden. Rich ground is best for Cabbage.

18 March 1771 James Adams coming from his Home to Mine this morning was obliged to dig his Horse out of Snow. The road was broke with 6 pr. of Cattle from Lincoln to my House and the Person who Drove went on Rackets. (Snowshoes: Ed.)

May. Reps. for Weston Bigelow had 73. J. Jones had 37 and no more and I hope he never will.

26 Sep. N. cold fair N.E. Mr. Hagar and Mr. Fuller mowed briefly in Hadley Pasture.

3 Oct. Coleridge one of the most excellent men I ever heard.

19 Nov. My horse stole. 20 Nov. I found my Horse.

December 1771. The pleasantest December I believe ever in New England. It is really surprising to what lengths some Men will go to satisfy a spirit of Revenge and to serve the Spirit of Ambition—a Whole Community's Ruin is no Obstacle when in the Way of It.

Editor's Comment: Perhaps this is a good note on which to stop. If you'd like more, there's an abundance of untouched material. Several terse comments above should strike responsive chords in the minds of many members who will readily recognize the men so casually and naturally mentioned by Weston's great Patriot. The Savage house, incidentally, still stands and is cherished by its present owners and occupants, Dr. and Mrs. Gardella at 479 North Avenue, near the Lincoln line. And that, also, will be part of our later stories.

WESTON'S GREAT STORM OF 1787

Oldtimers who still quake at terrors encountered on the afternoon of September 21, 1938 should enjoy reading what we unearthed in Samuel Phillips Savage's original diary at the Massachusetts Historical Society. Quite clearly it indicates "There's Nothing New Under the Sun."

"Wed. the 15th Aug. 1787 most violent Gale great Rain some Thunder. Haying Time. It crossed the Great Road at E. Greenleaf's Esq. where it blew down a low new board fence & carried off a shed adjoining his House. From thence in width of about 60 Rods it passed over some low Grounds & in its way took a cart laden with hay drawn by 2 Oxen & a horse which the Driver is very confident he saw pass over him. After the gust was over it was found a few Rods from where the Wind first took it, broken & both wheels off, & the Oxen & Horse which drew it unyoked & unharnessed. The Driver was raised from the Ground a full Rod and dropped in a meadow without any injury. It then passed through a door of fine oaks & pines belonging to Mr. Jonas Harrington where it blew down every Pine of any big Size & tore up & broke the Chief of the Oaks or Walnut of about 18 inches diameter, from abt. 8 feet from the Ground. It twisted like a withe & left standing as a monument of the power of air when put into violent spiral motion. The last act that we Know of before it ceased was about a mile northeast it there took a Lad at Work in a Meadow & carried him some Rods & Lodged him in a bunch of Alders. While passing from low to high Ground it did little or no injury even to the standing corn.

"Aug. 30, 1787 we learn that on the same day & in the afternoon there was a most terrible hurricane which passed over the Parish in Wethersfield, it arose in the Parish of New Britain in Convent & I believe ended about Lexington N.E. from us abt. 4 miles, as some of the Shingles of Mr. Livermore's malt house in this Town, it was said, were found there."

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE FALL MEETING

A special invitation to all members of the Weston Historical Society has been extended to attend the all-day annual fall meeting of the Bay State Historical League which will be held at Sterling, Massachusetts Saturday, October 13th. The beautiful, historic town of Sterling is only an hour's ride away through lovely country. Foliage should be at its best. Take the Massachusetts Turnpike to Route 495 North. Leave 495 at the Berlin-Clinton exit and Sterling Center is just 10 miles west on Route 62.

Registration and meeting headquarters will be in the Parish Hall of the First Church of Sterling. It's in plain sight beside the Library and opposite the Town Hall as you approach the Common. With hundreds of kindred souls, both young and old, you'll enjoy the panel discussions of the morning, the luncheon, and the tour of historic places and homes. Let's have a big turnout from Weston. Reservations including coffee hour, luncheon, meetings, and tour should be *made at $4 per person,* and checks payable to Sterling Historical Society, should be sent before Monday Oct. 8th to:

Mrs. Bradford Murdock, School Street, Sterling, Mass. 01564.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WESTON?

Another step forward in our coordination with the schools has been taken during the summer. A new course, inaugurated in the High School, already has more than 100 students enrolled. It aims to apply local, state, and national history to the opportunities, problems, and responsibilities of today. At an early September meeting with school officials it was agreed that the Editor would be the clearing house for information. The schools will keep us posted on oncoming subjects to be studied and discussed, and we in turn will draw from our catalogue of information and talent available to put students directly in touch with those members who we know have pertinent Weston recollections or records thereon.

Although we already have several oldtimers and others who can thus be helpful, we must expand their number and our inventory of available local historic resources, subject by subject from early times through Abolitionists to Zealots, and from the First Settlers to the early half of the current century. Remember that today's high school students have all been born since 1950. We should be anxious to give their teachers all the help we can as they strive to guide our youngsters into becoming good citizens and useful members of society. Please feel the importance of this work and call 899-4515 or Mrs. Ellis at 894-3011 for fuller information.

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last annual meeting, it has been sad to learn that the following charter members of our Society have passed away:

Mr. Lyndall F. Carter
Mrs. Donald D. Douglass
Mr. Paul L. Flynn
Mrs. William K. Howard
Mrs. Dick Simms
Mrs. Ernest L. Wells

We extend our sympathy to their families with whom we and the entire community share a deep sense of loss.

"LARGEST WOODEN HOUSE IN THE COLONIES"

Many of our members are planning to attend the slide lecture at Regis College that is being given by Mrs. George Maurice Morris on October 10th at 2 P.M. She will tell of the trials and thrills of moving an historic, mid-18th Century mansion from Danvers to Washington, and of how she and her husband undertook its restoration and furnishing. Among her slides are views of American Queen Anne and Chippendale antiques, the stenciled and painted floors, the hand-carved 18th Century stairway, and the old scenic French wallpaper. Tickets at $3.50 may be secured from Mrs. Edward Y. Walker, 53 Ash Street, 891-5298.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are glad to record the affiliation of the following as active members and supporters of our worthwhile programs:

Mr. and Mrs. Hazen M. Ackles, 70 North Avenue
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Y. Azadian, 23 Chadwick Road
Mr. and Mrs. John P. Connolly, Jr., 21 Beech Road
Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Heller, 100 Hickory Rd.
Mrs. Norman W. Kalat, 70 Meadowbrook Road
Mrs. Lawrence A. Murray, 239 Winter Street

"SOMEWHAT IN LIQUOR"

Though as stated in our March issue, Vol. IX, No. 3, the original of Rebecca Baldwin's diary still eludes us, we were delighted to find among the copious notes of the late Mary Frances Pierce in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, a number of fascinating extracts therefrom. Here's a sample:

> "1767 March 2. Samuel Brigham of Sudbury was drowned. He left a widow and 10 children. He was somewhat in liquor."

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1974, Vol. X, No. 2

VENERABLE LANDMARK ON RIPLEY LANE

THE HOUSE OF "DOCTORED" HISTORY

Known up to now as having been built "by 1740", this house came into the possession of the Ripley family in 1878. After 63 years of ownership and occupancy, that family sold it in 1941 to Mr. and Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell whose family likewise owned and occupied it for another 28,—making a total of 91 years under just two families. Since at least 1913 when LAMSON'S HISTORY OF WESTON was published, it was commonly thought that a Dr. Wheaton had built it and in 1775 had harbored a British spy overnight, concealing him in a space behind the central chimney. To learn how fallacious both of these reports were, see elsewhere in this issue, **COLONEL LAMSON DID NOT SAY IT.**

In 1969 Mrs. Elwell, one of our charter members, sold the house and barn with certain acreage to Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Earle, Jr., also members. The historic property remains in trusted hands. It also, now for the first time, is in truth owned and occupied by a real doctor of medicine and his family.

Research currently underway by members in conjunction with the Weston Historical Commission's townwide survey of houses has just turned up a possibility that the house was built perhaps in the 17th Century. Book 17 at the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds contains a 1701 deed which is being carefully explored, for in it Joseph Allen, Sr. conveys seventy acres and half a house to his only son, Joseph Allen, Jr. "for and in consideration of the fatherly affection that I have and bestow. . . ." The elder Allen includes ". . . my house Father Walter Allen formerly purchased of Mr. Bowman of Watertown." Though the house pictured above as it stands today has had additions and alterations through the years, the main part is indeed an original 4 room, central chimneyed house which indicates an early date. Without further documentation, however, we would not dare or care to say positively that what is pictured here is the structure in which these early owners of the property lived in 1701.

JANUARY MEETING FEATURES REVOLUTIONS IN ART

The Hall of the First Parish Church will be the site of the Society's meeting on Tuesday evening, January 29th at 8 P.M. The speaker will be Carole Taynton, popular and gifted lecturer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts for the past six years. The topic she has selected for her illustrated slide lecture is:

AMERICAN ARTISTIC REVOLUTIONS: COPLEY TO CASSATT.

Before coming to Boston in 1967, Miss Taynton was an instructor at the Toledo Museum of Art in Ohio. She had graduated from Oberlin College in that state with both B.A. and M.A. degrees in Art History. While studying for her masters degree, she held the position of Curatorial Assistant in the Oberlin Museum.

While she devotes almost full time to her chosen profession, she has served as Music Critic for the Boston Globe on many occasions. Well known by several members of our Program Committee, she is sure to provide a fascinating and enlightening evening. At the social hour which will follow, we shall have an opportunity to talk with her informally. Members are urged to bring friends and other prospective members to join us at this most worthwhile event.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Let me first thank all members for their interest and support. The Society has been fortunate during the past year in having an increased number of donations to its collection, and we are most appreciative. We continue to urge members to offer items that are, or may become, of historical value for our collection that is housed both at the Josiah Smith Tavern and the Isaac Fiske Law Office. The shed at the Tavern is soon to be re-enforced and made available for proper storage. Our rooms in the Tavern are in sore need of painting and re-furbishing: a project we hope will be completed before the Bicentennial.

Officers, directors, and members continue to lend assistance to other historically oriented town organizations, such as The Historical Commission and the Bicentennial Committee. It is gratifying to note that the house survey project of the Commission on which we have given major support, has progressed sufficiently to warrant the appointment by the Selectmen of an Historical District Study Committee to which we offer whatever aid is needed.

The Society is cooperating with the Weston Public Schools in courses in American history prior to the Civil War. Students pursuing specific topics in Weston history are matched with Society members knowledgable in those areas. Some twenty subjects are being researched and should any member wish to assist one or more students, either Mr. Travis (899-4515) or I (893-7388) will be pleased to outline subjects and procedures.

Our lecture series have been well attended and well received. We hope their continuation will be stimulating to all members. The BULLETIN, under the editorship of Mr. Travis, has maintained its usual high standard and has kept members informed on our activities. While finances are at present adequate, increased membership is necessary to maintain a viable organization. Wider interest and active support by all Weston residents is most desirable. This is particularly timely in view of the growing interest in Historical Districts and the upcoming Bicentennial events. This issue of the BULLETIN is being mailed gratis to every Weston household and we therefore urge all present members to encourage their friends and neighbors to join our Society. Each of you is a member of the Membership Committee of which Donald Douglass is chairman.

Please play your own part in recruiting each and every resident of the Town so that all of Weston may participate in our plans to make the second decade of our organization increasingly useful in protecting, promoting, and preserving our rich heritage.

Edward W. Marshall

IN MEMORIAM

With regret and sympathy we record the deaths since our last issue of charter members Mrs. Webb White and Mr. Albert R. Speare.

COLONEL LAMSON DID NOT SAY IT

Too often authors die before completing their manuscripts. When this happens, some outside writer is often drafted to finish the job. After Colonel Lamson's death, the late Horace Sears employed one William S. Kennedy to edit Lamson's notes and follow them through publication in **LAMSON'S HISTORY OF WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS** for distribution to every citizen during the Town's Bicentennial Celebration 60 years ago. This Kennedy lived in Belmont and was listed on that Town's 1913 Assessors' List as "Writer" with residence on Concord Road in that neighboring town. His preface was dated "Belmont, Mass. Feb. 24, 1913" and included these pertinent extracts:

> *"As to the accuracy of Colonel Lamson's History of Weston, all has been done that could be done to authenticate and correct the data . . . proofs have been passed under the critical eye of several persons . . . we have done our best to do this work for him . . . hence over our shortcomings would it be too much to ask that kindly charity draw the veil of silence?"*

For six decades that plea has been respected. Even now, we have great sympathy for the difficult task he undertook. Yet with the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial upon us, our eyes have sharpened. Insistence on "Facts at any Cost" compels us to set the record finally straight on one very important and significant part of Weston history.

On pages that follow are pictured (A) Pages 7 and 8 from Lamson's original, meticulously handwritten manuscript as used by Mr. Kennedy, (B) through courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society pages 10 and 11 of its photostatic copies of "A JOURNAL kept by MR. JOHN HOWE, while he was employed as a BRITISH SPY During The Revolutionary War. . . ." as published at Concord, N.H. by Luther Roby, Printer, in 1827, and (C) Page 77 from the book as finally published. Comparing these three documents carefully, you'll see several harmless changes in wording, but there's one change in the final book that makes all the difference in the world.

See how in both Howe's original journal and the Colonel's handwritten transcriptions therefrom, reference is consistently made to "one Wheaton", "for Mr. Wheaton's. . .", "at Mr. Wheaton's", "Mr. Wheaton", and finally again "Mr. Wheaton." Nary a mention of *doctor* anywhere. But in the Kennedy rendition which he honestly terms an abstract, we detect some amplifications and, despite or perhaps because of, that "critical eye" which may have been looking over his shoulder, a few highly imaginative surmises. Specifically, look at the parenthecated explanation in the following: ". . . one Wheaton in a remote part of the town, where I must remain until he sent for me (the Dr. Wheaton house is now that of Mr. Ripley)." . . . "After dinner Dr. Wheaton. . . ."

Who gave Writer Kennedy from out of town the idea that "one Wheaton" was "Dr. Wheaton"? How did he document, we wonder, that Howe's haven on that exciting night was the house that the Ripley family owned in 1913? Why don't the records at the Middlesex County Registry of Deed show that "one Wheaton" or that "Dr. Wheaton" as a previous owner of that Ripley property? Hazardous though conjectures, guesses, and deductions assuredly are, we point nevertheless to the bottom of Page 7 of Lamson's own manuscript. Can't you picture certain agitated Liberty Men, perhaps with knives unsheathed and teeth bared, backing Isaac Jones' terrified black servant against the kitchen wall and demanding "You tell us where he went!"? And, in her loyal, wily way to throw them off the track would that l'il ole gal have pointed in the wrong direction to "down there in the Swamp."? But we must tolerate no more guesswork in our search for "the truth and nothing but the truth."

During our inventorying of Weston's houses, we discovered that no "Dr." Wheaton's name or property ever appeared on the Weston scene before 1793,—18 years after Sergeant Howe's flight from Isaac Jones' tavern! So, having discarded the myth that a Dr. Wheaton ever lived in Weston during the 1770's and that in fact any Wheaton had ever lived on Ripley Lane, we resolved to find out for once and for all, where in Weston that "One Wheaton" actually did live.

The only WHEATON of Revolutionary War days who lived in Weston was Nathaniel Wheaton. Over at the Middlesex Registry of Deeds, we unearthed easily on Pages 107 and 108 of Book No. 74, a deed that recorded the sale of 575 pounds that one John Brown of Newtown made on Dec. 4, 1772 to NATHANIEL WHEATON OF ROXBURY, HOUSEWRIGHT, of a "certain farm lying in Weston . . . . . containing a Mansion

(Continued on page 6)

his house would be mobbed and I should be taken. Here I got some dinner; then he said he would send his hired man with me to the house of one Wheaton, in a remote part of the town, where I must remain till he sent for me - after dinner. I set out with his hired man for Mr Wheaton's; I arrived at Mr Wheaton's about sunset. Then the hired man informed Mr Wheaton of my business, and that I was a British Spy, and Capt Jones wished him to keep me secure until he sent for me. Then I was conducted into a chamber, with a table furnished with a bottle of brandy, candles, paper &c. Now I went to work to copy from my head on a journal. I remained here all night; the next day being the 6th, the good hired man came to see me early in the morning. He informed me that the news of the conversation which took place at Waterstown between Col: Smith and a black woman reached Capt Jones last evening, by the same teamsters you saw at Joel Smith's tavern yesterday. They insisted that there was a British Spies in the house, the news spread, and by eleven o'clock there were thirty men collected. Capt Jones gave them leave to search the house, which they did in part; then they went into the kitchen and asked the black-woman if there were any strangers or Englishmen in the house; she replied she thought

not; they asked her if there had any been there that day; she answered one or two gentlemen dined up stairs this afternoon; they asked her where they went to; she answered they sent them off to Jericho swamp, a dismal swamp about two miles from Jones' tavern. By this time their fury was subsided, Capt Jones set on a bottle of spirit to drink, which they drank and all retired. Now the hired man went home and said he should call again in the evening; after breakfast I went to work upon my journal, here I set down the number of militia, arms & ammunition of this place sent to me by the hired man from Mr Jones. After dinner Mr Wheaton introduced his two daughters to me, stating to them that I was a British officer in disguise. Here we sat and played cards until tea time. After tea the ladies retired and I lie down, being very tired, and expecting company that evening. About eight o'clock the hired man called for me and said he was going with me to Marlborough, but said we could not go by Capt Jones's for they were lying in wait for me there; so I bid Mr Wheaton and his family goodbye, and off we set on the back road coming out above Capt Jones's one mile on the Worcester road. Here I found the road good to Sudbury river; here I found myself twenty miles from

that had taken place from Boston here, it being fourteen miles. He informed me that it would not do for me to stay over night, for his house would be mobed and I should be taken. Here I got some dinner; then he said he would send his hired man with me to the house of one Wheaton, in a remote part of the town, where I must remain till he sent for me after dinner. I set out with this hired man for Mr. Wheaton's; I arrived at Mr. Wheaton's about sunset. Then the hired man informed Mr. Wheaton of my business, and that I was a British Spy, and Capt. Jones wished him to keep me secure until he sent for me. Then I was conducted into a chamber, with a table furnished with a bottle of brandy, candles, paper, &c. Now I went to work to copy from my head on a journal. I remained here all night; the next day being 6th, the good hired man came to see me early in the morning. He informed me that the news of the conversation which took place at Waterton between Col. Smith and a black woman reached Capt. Jones last evening, by the same teamsters you saw at J. Smith's tavern yesterday. They insisted that there were British Spies in the house, the news spread, and by eleven o'clock there were thirty men collected. Capt. Jones gave them leave to search the house, which they did in part; then they went into the kitchen and asked the black woman if there were any strangers or Englishmen in the house; she replied she thought not; they asked her if there had any been there that day; she answered one or two gentlemen dined up stairs this afternoon; they asked her where they went to; she answered they sent them off to Jericho swamp, a dismal swamp about two miles from Jones' tavern. By this time their fury was subsided, Capt. Jones set on a bottle of spirit to drink, which they drank, and all retired.—Now the hired man went home and said he should call again in the evening; after breakfast I went to work upon my journal, here I sat down the number of militia, arms and ammunition of this place sent to me by the hired man from Mr. Jones—after dinner Mr. Wheaton introduced his two daughters to me, stating to them that I was a British officer in disguise. Here we sat and played cards until tea time. After tea the ladies retired and I lie down, being very tired, and expected company that evening. About eight o'clock the hired man called for me and said he was going with me to Marlborough, but said we could not go by Capt. Jones' for they were lying in wait for me there; so I bid Mr. Wheaton and his family good bye, and off we set on the back road, coming out above Capt. Jones' one mile, on the Worcester road. Here I found the roads good to Sudbury river; here I found myself twenty miles from Boston, Here we examined the river for a fording place, providing the bridge should be moved, we found one place which was fordable in Fra-

C.

would not do for me to stay at his house over night, for his house would be mobbed and I would be taken a prisoner. He gave me some dinner and sent me by his hired man to the house of one Wheaton in a remote part of the town, where I must remain, until he sent for me [the Dr. Wheaton house is now that of Mr. Ripley]. The man told Dr. Wheaton I was a British spy. I was conducted into a chamber, where I found a bottle of Brandy, candles and paper. I went to work to write up my journal. The next day Captain Jones' man came and told me that the news of what had occurred at Watertown between Col. Smith and the black woman had reached Captain Jones's in the night, by the same teamsters that had seen me at the Smith tavern. By eleven o'clock that night some thirty men had collected at the Jones tavern [with tar and feathers.] Capt. Jones gave them permission to search the house. The black girl told them some persons had been sent into Jericho swamp. After dinner Dr. Wheaton introduced me to his two daughters as a British officer in disguise and we played cards until tea time. That night Captain Jones's man came to take me to Marlboro'. We came out on the road about a mile above Jones's on the Worcester road. I found the roads good to the Sudbury river, twenty-five miles from Boston. I examined

House and Barn with about 67 acres. . . also a second piece of land containing about 13 acres . . . and one other piece of land being wood land containing about 13 acres bounded southerly on the line between the Towns of Weston and Needham . . ."

Getting rapidly to the point by skipping formalities, there is no doubt whatsoever that this Wheaton house ("Mansion") and property stood in the southwest quarter of Weston at, or mostly quite close to, the Wellesley line of today. Thus, after uncovering his purchase of land from John Brown (Was our Brown Street named for him? Ed.) we searched Roxbury's early Town records, and to our delight, found under ROXBURY MARRIAGES on Page 423 "WHEETON (see also Whealan) Nathan(ie)l, & Molly Richards Oct. 7, 1759." Elsewhere in the same book under ROXBURY BIRTHS we unearthed first on page 294 "Molly, d. Joseph & Mary (Wheaton), April 15, 1741.

(So she was 18 when she married our Nathaniel.)

Turning to Page 365 under the same heading we came to:

"Wheaton (see also WHEETON)

Amy d. Nathaniel & Molly, Nov. 17, 1765
Caleb s. Nathaniel & Molly, March 2, 1761
Molly d. Nathaniel & Molly, Jan. 5, 1763

Obviously when "after dinner Mr. Wheaton introduced his two daughters to me" and they played cards until teatime, Amy was almost 10 and Molly was 12. Equally significant is the fact that, continuing his journal, Howe says "About eight o'clock the hired man called for me . . . but said we could not go by Capt. Jones' for they were lying in wait for me there . . . so . . . off we set on the back road, coming out above Capt. Jones' one mile, on the Worcester Road." Note here that instead of going to Weston Center on what is today's Wellesley Street from the Glen Road vicinity, the two connivers could have swung over to Highland Street, headed north as far as today's Love Lane, and have come out ála Howe's diary, ". . . a mile above Capt. Jones' on the Worcester Road."

How can we find out more about Nathaniel, and where his house ("mansion") was? From Mary Frances Peirce's books we know that first their daughter Amy in 1776, and then his wife Molly, and finally he himself on July 4, 1777 died "of smallpox", but we can find no record of where they were buried, for they are not recorded in the records of the South Burying Ground or the Farmers' Burying Ground on South and Central Avenues respectively. Nor does Roxbury/Boston have any record of their interments "back home." Maybe their bones are in somebody's backyard on "the south side". Their son, Caleb, paid real estate taxes on 13 acres of land here through 1810, but he and his younger sister Molly have left no trace as to what their destinies were. Will we ever know? There's always a chance.

As we came to press time, we began to hit real "pay dirt" in our yen to locate the exact spot where Nathaniel Wheaton's house ("Mansion") stood (stands?). Where are those 67 acres on which the mansion and barn were located? How about those two 13 acre tracts, one apparently open field, the other identified as woodland? Did either or both abut the 67 acre main plot? On December 14th at 3:45 P.M. (the Registry closes at 4 SHARP) we "clicked" on one of the 13 acre pieces. To save space, we now record that "as at" December 17th as we "go to press", one of these 13 acre tracts is indeed part of the large estate in the South Side of Weston whose owner(s) agrees with us that until we are sure, we will not divulge any premature, half-finished bits of information. Certain puzzles will smooth themselves out to the point where documented findings can be revealed. Meanwhile it's too easy to leap to false conclusions just as was done 60 years ago, and we're just too "Yankee" to get ourselves caught in such confusion and conflict.

Finally though, to send a great many of you in Weston's southwest quarter scurrying to your Safe Deposit vaults where your own deeds are kept, let us tell you that, since 67 plus 13 still by new or old Math equals 80, the above mentioned owners' property actually includes without doubt one of the two 13 acre plats and traces back to 1771 as part of a deed for,-you guessed it,-80 acres (67 + 13). The perplexing part at this stage is that the abutters shown thereon are not the same as appear on the Brown to Wheaton deed of 1772 (a year later). Well, seasoned researchers are accustomed to such temporary frustrations. We, though, are impatient to get the pieces of the puzzles in place, so if any of you find that your property "identifies" in its abstracts of title with Nathan Jones, John Jones, Abijah Upham, Nathaniel Dewing, Nathaniel Stimpson, John Lamson, John Allen, or Samuel Fiske, please call the Editor at any hour of the day or night!

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into our active membership:

Mrs. Conway L. Atwater, P.O. Box 938, Hamilton, Bermuda
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Coburn, Jr., 1580 Del Monte Court, Moraga, Cal. 94556
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Gardella, 479 North Ave., Weston, Mass. 02193
Mrs. Lawrence W. Hunt, 131-D North St., Newtonville, Mass. 02160
Mrs. Albert B. Joy, 37-21 Middlesex Circle, Waltham, Mass. 02154
Mr. Stephen W. Maloney, 66 Radcliffe Road, Weston, Mass. 02193
Mrs. Weldon W. Keith, 12 Linden Road, Sudbury, Mass. 02176
Mrs. Ruth B. Murkland, 334 South Ave., Weston, Mass. 02193
Mrs. Lawrence A. Murray, 239 Winter Street, Weston, Mass. 02193
Mrs. Harold F. Nichols, 1 Legion Road, Weston, Mass. 02193
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon H. Silver, 35 Loring Road, Weston, Mass. 02193
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yeoman Walker, 53 Ash Street, Weston, Mass. 02193
Mrs. Stewart C. Woodworth, Exmoor, 745 Boston Post Road, Weston, Mass. 02193

SPECIAL NOTICE

By vote of the Directors, this issue of the BULLETIN is being mailed to every Weston household for one reason and for one purpose:— (1) We are proud of WESTON, and (1) we seek the support of EVERY WESTON FAMILY.

Our many officers and committees are working diligently with all our members to preserve this great Town's rich heritage. Through family and single memberships at nominal rates we are one of the largest historical societies in the Commonwealth. Unlike some similar organizations our membership is not by any means confined to a select few old residents! Rather, people of all ages and stages of life are generously represented, and indeed, the contacts between oldtimers and youngsters are cordial and mutually rewarding. The programs of our regular meetings bring us real inspiration and helpful information.

The Bicentennial of the American Revolution is almost upon us, and we are particularly anxious to have every Weston household on our membership roll. That's why, with this issue, we are cordially inviting you,—if you are not already a member, to fill out the simple application blank below, and mail it with your check payable to the WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. to the address shown thereon.

New members will be welcomed by name in our next issue. We very much want to include your name. We'll be grateful for your tangible support. The Town whose blessings we all enjoy and share, will surely benefit from it too.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 343
WESTON, MASS. 02193

Please accept the enclosed check for $ _____ as payment for one year's membership as designated:

Family @ $5 _____ Single @ $3 _____

My name is _____

Others under 21 in my family are _____

_____

_____

Signed _____

Street _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

COMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, JAN. 29: 8 P.M. First Parish Hall
Slide Lecture: COPLEY TO CASSATT
Story on Page 2

TUESDAY APRIL 23: CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER
MARK THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR
Details in next issue

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1974, Vol. X, No. 3

THE BARN OF ISAAC FISKE—In the spring of 1920 this old structure which stood northwest of the Fiske house and across the Post Road from the Central Burying Ground, was moved downstreet some 600 feet to its present location immediately west of the Farmers' Burying Ground and facing north onto Soldiers' Park. It was converted into shops and office space. This photograph was taken by the author. See story on Pages 3, 4, and 5.

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER: OUR BIGGEST ANNUAL EVENT

Be sure to set aside TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 23RD on your calendar. On that evening in the Cafeteria of the Senior High School, the members of our Society will gather to enjoy the traditional dinner and fellowship that has always marked this event as the high spot of the Society's year. Our speaker will be Mr. Stephen T. Riley, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, a charter member of our Society and a popular speaker before several of our previous gatherings. Of particular significance as the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial approaches will be his lively topic:

COLONIAL RIVALRY: JOHN ADAMS AND ROBERT TREAT PAINE

Further details regarding arrangements and reservations will be mailed to each member, but meanwhile it is important that you save the date and plan to attend with your friends on Tuesday, April 23rd. It will be a great evening.

IN ANTICIPATION OF SPRING

Any day now the daffodils in the lovely bulb garden behind the Isaac Fiske Law Office will be bursting into bloom, heralding a summerlong procession of rare beauty. Can't *you* spare a few hours to help keep it trim? If enough of us have a piece of the action, the work will be fun and the result a constantly neat and blooming oldfashioned garden, filled with enjoyment and satisfaction for all. Call Susan Dumaine at 899-1098.

IN MEMORIAM

We record sadly the recent death of Pickering Dodge Stone, a faithful, charter life member of this society.

JUST A CENTURY AGO

WESTON'S SCHOOLS

Total school enrollment was 235. Of these pupils 5 were under 5; 28 were over 15 years of age. The total appropriation for schools was $4,375. This amount covered the salaries of the teachers in all six district schools and the high school. (The expenditures for the entire town for the year ending March 15, 1873 was $25,865.03.) Here are a few quotations from the 3 man School Committee comprising Messrs. Alonzo F. Benson, Edwin Hobbs, and George W. Dunn:—

> "The generous sum placed at the disposal of the Committee for the support of schools, shows the interest felt by the citizens in the subject of popular education."
>
> "There has been manifest more thoroughness in drill than in some previous years. The improvement in writing, especially during the last term, has been very marked."
>
> "It should be regarded as a misfortune for a teacher not to be able to sing."
>
> "All our school houses are now in excellent repair, and well furnished. Their cheerful appearance inside make them inviting places to both teachers and pupils, while their outward air and neatness elicit words of enconium from strangers."
>
> "Classification, based on mental capacity, while it would offer a speedier march to some scholars, would doom others to a slower pace . . . Another hinderance is found in the super-abundance of matter contained in text-books. Many of these books contain a mass of rules and facts which over-burdens the memory . . . the strain upon the memory is too severe."
>
> "Were there no poor teachers, there would be fewer failures; yet, with first class teachers, progress may not be as rapid as may be desirable; for a successful school is made up of a multitude of little things."

THE FIRST WATERING TROUGHS

In their report for the year ending March 15, 1874, the Selectmen;—Messrs. Edward Coburn, George W. Dunn, and Benjamin Cutter,—reported: "The past year we have established a watering place, with pump and stone trough, for the benefit of the traveling public, near the house of Mrs. Nathan Hagar. (This was on North Avenue near Church Street.-Ed.) We also intended to place one at the centre of town, but fearing the difficulty of obtaining water in this locality, we did not wish to take the responsibility without a vote of the town, and we hope some action will be taken to establish one at the centre or at some other location."

A year later, in the Town Report for year ending March 15, 1875, they said: "A public watering place has been established near the house of Mrs. George Sparhawk (corner of Wellesley Street and Central Avenue . . . -Ed.) with pump and stone trough, which are in constant use by the traveling public. The trough was a present to the town by one of our citizens who is interested in the comfort and care of the dumb animals." We are indebted to Gilbert M. Upham of Barre, Massachusetts, one of our new members, for today's whereabouts of this historic trough. Efforts will be made to bring it again to the surface and to re-establish it in an appropriate spot as a landmark of the town. Mr. Upham is a descendant of one of Weston's oldest families and it is noteworthy that his grandfather, his father, and he himself served the town of Weston as Road Superintendents for 125 consecutive years. His knowledge of Weston and its old roads, many of which have been drastically changed in the current century while others have gone back to grass and scrub growth, is extensive. We hope that at some future date we can get him to share his memories with us.

FIRE DESTROYS ISAAC FISKE HOUSE (BALDWIN TAVERN)

ITEM FROM THE DAILY PRESS Aug. 22, 1890

"Early this morning the old mansion house on the corner of Central Avenue and Fiske Street in Weston, known as the Squire Fiske house, was discovered to be on fire and in spite of all efforts to prevent was totally consumed. Fire was first discovered in the shed at the rear of the ell by Mr. Winslow who is occupying the house for the summer. He supposed that he had extinguished it but soon after he found that it was working in the partition between the shed and the ell.

"Mr. Winslow at once went to Mr. Dickson's for assistance and Benton Dickson Jr. promptly responded taking with him a force pump and a revolver. On arriving at the spot Mr. Dickson fired his revolver twice to arouse the neighbors and set to work with his pump to subdue the flames. This was about half past two o'clock. The fire was found to have gained too much headway for the successful use of the apparatus at hand and the neighbors, having rapidly gathered, exertions were made to save the furniture. In this they were remarkably fortunate for the fire burned very slowly. Nearly everything of value was gotten out of the house including an Emerson upright piano. Nothing more could be done save to protect surrounding buildings from the shower of cinders that filled the air to the eastward.

"Fortunately the wind was very light; what there was was away from the outbuildings and the large trees were an excellent protection on the east side. Nothing now remains of the building but a pile of smoldering ruins and one chimney. Almost everything in the way of wood work is burned. Even some of the surrounding trees took fire and the heart of one large one on Fiske Street was still burning late this forenoon. A servant who was asleep in the attic had a narrow escape, being nearly insensible through suffocation from the very dense smoke when pulled from bed by those who discovered her situation.

"The property is understood to be insured although to what extent could not be ascertained this morning. Among the occupants last night were Mr. Graham Train and sister, who came to Weston to pass the night with Mr. and Mrs. Winslow. They were on the Pullman car on the ill-fated train at Quincy. Mr. Train was intending to go on a yachting cruise, but these two disasters following him so closely have changed his plans, and, although not inclined to be superstitious he thinks he will remain on land.

"We are requested by the family to insert the following:

CARD OF THANKS

'The heirs of the late Isaac Fiske, Esq. desire to return sincere thanks to their neighbors and friends who exerted themselves so strenuously to save the ancestral home, through whose efforts furniture was saved from the destruction which unfortunately involved the house.'"

From the diary of B. H. Dickson, Jr.

"Friday, August 22, 1890
Our old house burnt at 2:45 A.M. Pat and I got there first. Worked there as long as necessary. To our house.** Worked there putting blankets on roof, etc. Luckily no more houses caught the roofs being damp there having been a heavy shower in the night.*
Caught from ——?——

Saturday, August 23, 1890
to store got fire hooks tried to knock over chimney n.g.
Nothing thought of or talked of except the fire whole town excited."

*probably P. J. McAuliffe

**the Parson Woodward house on Concord Road, less than 100 yards away.

* * *

ITEM from the Daily Press of Aug. 27, 1890

"A town meeting is called for next Tuesday evening to see what action the town wlll take in regard to fire apparatus."

THE BALDWIN TAVERN

By Brenton H. Dickson

The history of the old building, often known as "The Baldwin Tavern," dates back to 1736 when Joseph Woolson, Weston innholder, conveyed the land at what is now the corner of Fiske Lane and the Post Road to his son Isaac. The Woolson family had been innholders in Weston since at least 1686 when Joseph's father, Thomas, was issued a license to keep an inn and sell liquor. (See Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, Vol. IX, No. 3, March 1973). He carried on the business until his death in 1713 and was succeeded by his son Joseph, who was licensed from then until 1739. In that year a license was given to Joseph's son, Isaac. The following year Isaac petitioned the Court of Sessions for a continuation of his license, "having moved his house some distance from the original site." From then on he conducted his business at the location his father had deeded to him on the Post Road. This would indicate that the oldest part of the house which was to become The Baldwin Tavern was built about that time.

Isaac continued running the inn until his death in 1743. In 1744 and for the next five years we find his widow, Sybil Woolson, a licensed innholder. Presumably she moved to Waltham at the end of this time for, when deeding her property to Samuel Baldwin in 1751, she called herself "Sybil Woolson of Waltham." Baldwin was first licensed in 1749 and probably kept the tavern on Sybil's property until buying it three years later.

When Parson Woodward, Weston's minister during the Revolution, was called to the Weston church in 1751, he bought land of William Smith on Concord Road on which to build his house. "Probably the buyer and seller sought refuge from the bitter March winds in the neighboring tavern of Samuel Baldwin and settled the terms of the bargain over mugs of flip or a jug of hard cider. There were present at this interview, presumably sharing the good cheer, Col. Francis Fullham, Elisha Jones Esq., and mine host himself, Weston worthies all three who signed as witnesses to the deed. . . ." (from an unpublished paper by Andrew Fiske).

When Burgoyne's captured troops were being marched to Boston along the Post Road and bivouacked under the elm across the road, American officers are said to have lodged in the Tavern,—and probably British officers also. The period, 1780-1785, seems to have been Weston's wettest years with as many as nine innholder licenses issued in a single year. A constant procession of teams passed through town during the daylight hours carrying produce and firewood to Boston. The thirsty drivers needed alcoholic refreshment at the end of the day and a place to spend the night.

Baldwin died apparently owing money to one John Clewly of Halifax, Nova Scotia, a carpenter. His executor recovered a judgment against the "goods and chattels, rights and credits that were of Samuel Baldwin dec. in the hands of Rebecca Baldwin" (1787). In order to satisfy debts the place was sold at auction and Rebecca ended up with only a quarter of the house which she owned until her death in 1795. The portion she was able to keep was "the northwest room, the chamber above and the cellar under it with privilege to pass to and from the well through the kitchen and whatever other privileges might appertain to said part of house." The remaining three quarters of the house was bought at auction by Rev. Samuel Kendall of Weston and after Rebecca's death he sold it to Benjamin Allen of Tisbury. At about the same time Allen also bought the quarter that Rebecca had owned. It is interesting that Kendall should have held his share in the house

from the time of the auction until Rebecca's death and it might be speculated that he bought the place out of charity so Rebecca could continue having use of the whole house—a nice thought but undocumented.

Rebecca got her last license in 1785 and there is no indication of the building having been used as a tavern again until 1802 when Allen sold the property to Joseph Smith, a licensed innholder in Weston from 1802 until 1806. Then in 1807 Jonas Green succeeded Smith and carried on the business until at least 1810, possibly 1811, after which time his name does not appear on the license list. He continued to live there until 1815 when he sold the property to his neighbor Isaac Fiske. No doubt there were many alterations to the house between the time Woolson built it and Fiske owned it, especially about 1805-6 when its valuation went from £90 to £120 and then to £170 in 1807.

Isaac Fiske made the house his Weston headquarters from 1815 until his death in 1861. He also resided part of the time in Cambridge where for more than thirty years he was Register of Probate for Middlesex County. When he died the property went to his heirs one of whom in 1920 built the house that still stands on the knoll overlooking Soldiers' Park, and across the street from his law office. At about this time, as pictured on the front page, Fiske's barn was moved down the Post Road to be converted into shops. It continues today to be an historic part of the downtown scene.

ONE REVIVAL THAT WOULD BE TIMELY

Looking through old Town Reports that fill one whole cupboard in our Isaac Fiske Law Office Library, we noted that the first four pages of the report for the year ending February 28, 1895 were devoted to the *VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION OF WESTON.* Its constitution and By Laws were printed in full. Its officers and executive committee comprised names that will never be forgotten in the annals of our town. Justin Gale, High School Principal was President, Henry J. White and Francis H. Hastings Vice Presidents, Albert H. Hews Secretary and Treasurer, while the Executive Committee bore such names as Rev. Charles H. Russell, Miss Marion R. Case, Miss Edith Coburn, Howard L. Cooper (Tree Warden), Charles H. Fiske, Nathan S. Fiske, Charles W. Hubbard, Mrs. David W. Lane, Miss Hattie S. Perry, Mrs. Louis E. Roberts, Mr. Horace S. Sears, Mr. Robert Winsor, and Mrs. Frederick T. Fuller.

Article II of the Constitution read:

> *"The object of this Society shall be the preservation of the natural beauties of the town, the improving and ornamenting of the streets and public grounds of the town, by planting and cultivating trees, the establishing and maintaining of walks, the establishing and protecting of good grass plots and borders in the streets and public squares, the providing of public drinking troughs, the lighting and watering of streets, and generally the doing, in conjunction with the town authorities, whatever may tend to the improvement of the town as a place of residence."*

Fellow citizens, as we drive over smoothly paved streets that don't need to be watered in order to lay dust, how many of us realize that it was this group of dedicated people who planted and watered and "cultivated" the beautiful, now venerable, ash and maple trees that, despite ravages of telephone and electric light company wires, still majestically adorn our principal roads in all parts of the town? How often during the past 80 years were these monuments to yesteryear cultivated, fed, nurtured, or even *noticed?*

As we approach the Bicentennial, we invite you to ponder the above. Do we owe better maintenance of those trees to those who planted them for us? Should not we in turn plant trees for *our* own posterity too?

THOSE EARLY 18TH and 19TH CENTURY LAW OFFICES

Supplement to Vol. IX, No. 1, Oct. 1972:—Harold G. Travis

We wondered how many additions to our list of 15 would result from our article that appeared 17 months ago. The answer is actually SIX although we did uncover four more that have been so utterly altered or mutilated as to make their restoration hopeless. As was true of the original 15, the stories of the interesting and worthwhile people who built and occupied these little gems cannot be adequately told in limited BULLETIN space. Hence as soon as possible we aim to publish the collected material in lengthier form.

Pictured here are the six "1973 discoveries".

JOHN FOWLER WILLIAMS' 1815 Law Office at West Woodstock, Connecticut. Direct descendant of "The Redeemed Captive" and the latter's son, "The Boy Captive of Old Deerfield", John F. Williams had two ties with Weston. Another ancestor was Rev. John Davenport, founder of New Haven, whose carved initials are still believed to adorn a Weston boulder.* Likewise, he was related to Abigail Williams, widow of Parson Woodward who later married Col. Thomas Marshall.**

ARTHUR McARTHUR's 1817 Law Office, Limington, Maine, when we visited it last fall was badly in need of restoration with its hip roof close to complete collapse. Literally, this building exudes some glamorous history. McArthur and his son, Brigadier General William Miltimore McArthur, each lived to be 84 and jointly accounted for 107 of the building's 157 years of life to date. Through non-use and neglect it has been deteriorating for the past half Century and the entire McArthur estate of which it is but a minor part, cries out for friendly hands.

The 1826 Law Office of CHARLES PARSONS CHANDLER at Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, tells the inspiring story of a lawyer whose father had been a judge, and whose son, two brothers, two nephews, and a granddaughter all followed him into the profession. His Bowdoin friends included Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States, Chief Justice John Appleton, and the immortal poets Hawthorne and Longfellow.

The ALBERT LIVINGSTON KELLY 1829 Law Office in Winterport, Maine is a unique brick structure whose ship-lap boarded front and iron shutters are worthy of special note. Kelly and Daniel Webster were closely related, for the former's mother, Rebecca Fletcher Kelly was the sister of Webster's wife, Grace. With Webster's backing he was appointed agent in Frankfort, now Winterport, to look after the claims in the *Ten Proprietors'* Grant. He studied law under Steven Longfellow, the poet's father and lived in their home. The present owner is Mrs. Edward McKeen whose late husband was a cousin of our charter member and director, Mrs. Stanley G. French.

JUDGE NATHAN CLIFFORD's 1845 Law Office at Newfield, Maine was the only public building to survive the disastrous 1947 fire. Long since converted to library use, it is a monument to a country lawyer who ended life as a United States Supreme Court Justice after a career of conspicuous service as Member of Congress, President Polk's Attorney General, and Minister to the Republic of Mexico.

The 1850 LUTHER SANBORN MOORE Law Office at Limerick, Maine has been owned by that town for the past 80 years and houses the public library. Moore rose to the Presidency of the Maine Senate before going to Washington as U.S. Congressman from that district. The last of his 10 children was the famous author-librarian, Anne Carroll Moore, who presided over the Children's Department of the New York Public Library for more than a third of a century.

Relics of four other early 19th Century Law Offices, one at Exeter, New Hampshire and three in Gorham, Maine, still exist but scarcely in "presentable" shape. In fact, only the front door of one remains at Gorham, rescued and now carefully preserved by an outraged, semi-retired Congregational minister who seized it from the mouth of a bulldozer that had been commissioned to make way for a new bank. The stories of the owner of this destroyed building and of the other three that have almost completely disappeared into other forms and uses, will be included in the anticipated publication mentioned at the outset of this article.

*See "John Davenport's Rock" by Thomas M. Paine in OLD TIME NEW ENGLAND, Vol. LVIII, No. 1, Summer 1967, the BULLETIN of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

**See Weston Historical Society BULLETINS Vol. V, No. 2—Jan. 1969 and Vol. VII, No. 1, Oct. 1970.

Weston can justly be proud that here on the old Post Road some two miles apart, the Isaac Fiske 1805 and the Alpheus Bigelow 1811 Law Offices are in excellent condition and trustworthy hands. We congratulate the Town of Wayland for having recently saved its historic Mellen 1826 office with an expensive restoration. It adds to the charm of the Town Green upon which it stands. As Abraham Lincoln began his life in a humble log cabin so did other great Americans start their careers in tiny buildings such as these.

WILLIAMS 1815
WEST WOODSTOCK, CONNECTICUT

McARTHUR 1817
LIMINGTON, MAINE

CHANDLER 1826
DOVER-FOXCROFT, MAINE

KELLY 1829
WINTERPORT, MAINE

CLIFFORD 1845
NEWFIELD, MAINE

MOORE 1850
LIMERICK, MAINE

MEMBERSHIP KEEPS GROWING

More and more Weston people are rallying to support the exciting and worthwhile work of our Society. This month we extend a hearty welcome to the new members listed below. There's always room for more so don't hesitate to enroll all your neighbors and friends who may so far have neglected to join with us. By the start of the Bicentennial we'd like to have every household in Weston on our roll.

Mr. and Mrs. George P. Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Cassidy, Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Conant, Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Cutter, Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Doyle, Jr., Mrs. John E. Eaton,

Mr. and Mrs. John F. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford R. Heintz, Mr. and Mrs. John G. Hutcheson, Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey E. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Donald G. Kennedy, Miss Sara J. Lempereur, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Lyman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Macdonald, Mrs. Doris H. May, Mr. and Mrs. Lovett Morse, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Pawlick, Mrs. Anna Pollock, Dr. and Mrs. David H. Reid, Mr. Stephen A. Reno, Mr. and Mrs. Edward V. Rossiter,

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. David F. Squire, Mr. and Mrs. Allan W. Steere, Mr. and Mrs. Rolf Stutz, Dr. and Mrs. Roger H. Sweet, Mrs. Stanley E. Thomas, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John T. Trefry, Mr. and Mrs. Hillard W. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Whittemore, Mrs. James L. Wittenberger, Mr. William D. Whynot, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Yogg.

Added to the above Weston residents is our former fellow citizen, Mr. Gilbert M. Upham, Old Hardwich Road, Barre, Mass. 01005.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
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President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1974, Vol. X, No. 4

HERE ONCE STOOD—BUT NO MORE,—

"THE HOUSE OF ONE WHEATON IN A REMOTE PART OF THE TOWN"

In March of 1923 the late Helen E. Kelsey paid the City of Newburyport $700 for the above house "as is" at 42 Milk Street in that city. Three weeks later she had Stone Brothers of Boston for $200 move it to Weston in four trips. On April 3rd 8.2 acres here on Ash Street were conveyed to her by Eli Brock, native Englishman and well-known local poultryman who had come here from Wellesley in 1894 and had built his house at 229 Ash Street. She had hers reassembled on land that abutted his house. It was assigned the number *221*. When she died in 1960, trustees of Wellesley College to whom she bequeathed it, sold it to Deborah K. and L. Whitman Smith, the latter being one of our present Selectmen.

While the old house could no doubt tell quite a story from its own youth, it would be as nothing compared to the secret its cellar has so closely held from its owners and from all Weston people for lo these many years. The Brock to Kelsey deed 50 years ago men-

Continued on Page 3

IN MEMORIAM: EVERETT SCHWARTZ

Faithful charter member, Weston native, Everett Schwartz died on April 20th. As did his late, beloved uncle, Austin Hale, Everett loved this town and its people,—this country and its flag. His grandfather, Benjamin Schwartz, lived in the old Jonas Sanderson house near the corner of High Street and Love Lane. See January 1973 BULLETIN Vol. IX, No. 2. Our sympathy is extended to the widow, two children, two granddaughters and two grandsons.

NATHANIEL HARRIS' DIARY

On one of the shelves in the Isaac Fiske Law Office is a little book with intriguing contents. Its author, Judge Nathaniel Harris of Watertown married our own Hannah Fullam on Jan. 30, 1718. The diary that he kept through his long career as Justice of the Peace and as Trial Justice for Small Causes is replete with humorous comments. Like so many others, it is the gift of our fellow member, James B. Muldoon.

On Feb. 2, 1737, "George Cutting Junior and Samuel Whitney came and confessed that they had severally Broke the Peace by Stricking Each other and were fined 3 shillings & 6 pence each." Weston apparently had trouble keeping its roads in proper repair, for we found complaints filed in 1741 by Abraham Gale, Surveyor of Highways against 10 of his fellow townsmen "for not attending by himself or by a sufficient person in his stead with cart & team." Judge Harris fined each of them 10 shillings and costs.

Gale was indeed a diligent prosecutor, Witness this entry: "On complaint of Abraham Gale of Weston, Informer, —— ———— was charged with being drunk with strong drink. 10s to be paid to the Poor." Again at random we caught this May 31, 1738 notation:— "Jacob Wendall jr. and Henry Jonson Both Belonging to Boston in the County of Suffolk, Merchants, Confessed that they had Broken the King's Peace by Strikeing one Samuel Severns of Weston, Yeoman" for which they "were ordered and accordingly Paid as a fine to the King the Sum of five shillings each."

On June 4, 1753 "Personally appeared Bradish Smith of Weston and was sworn clerk of the Milltey Company in Weston under the Command of Capt. Sam Bond." Closing the book and putting it up for another day, we spent a while admiring the gorgeous daffodil blooms in the peaceful and remote but convenient garden below. How peaceful it is to live in Weston with so many memories of people who through the years have given it character and charm.

WESTON'S YOUTH COMMISSION AND ARBOR DAY

Members of the Village Improvement Association which we now find was actually founded in 1886 with General Charles J. Paine as its first president, would be pleased to learn that Weston's Youth Commission on Arbor Day, April 26th, emulated their fine example of planting so many of the venerable trees that now grace our principal streets. Reacting to the query "Should not we in turn plant trees for our own posterity too?", (March 1974 BULLETIN, Vol. X, No. 3), a group under William McElwain's direction, with fullest cooperation from the Tree Warden, and with the blessing and gratitude of the Weston Bicentennial Committee, helped to plant a dozen healthy maples in the front yard of the Junior High School, close to the new Sugar House. Now it would be great if parents and grandparents would in turn emulate these youngsters and "Plant A Tree." Too many of our old ones have been neglected too long. Here especially "Do we not owe better maintenance to those who planted them for us?"

SPECIAL REQUEST

When you move, it's not enough to leave a forwarding address at the Post Office. The BULLETIN is mailed under special permit classification which saves the Society money, but it is *not forwardable.* Whenever you move, be sure to write us at Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193 with your new address.

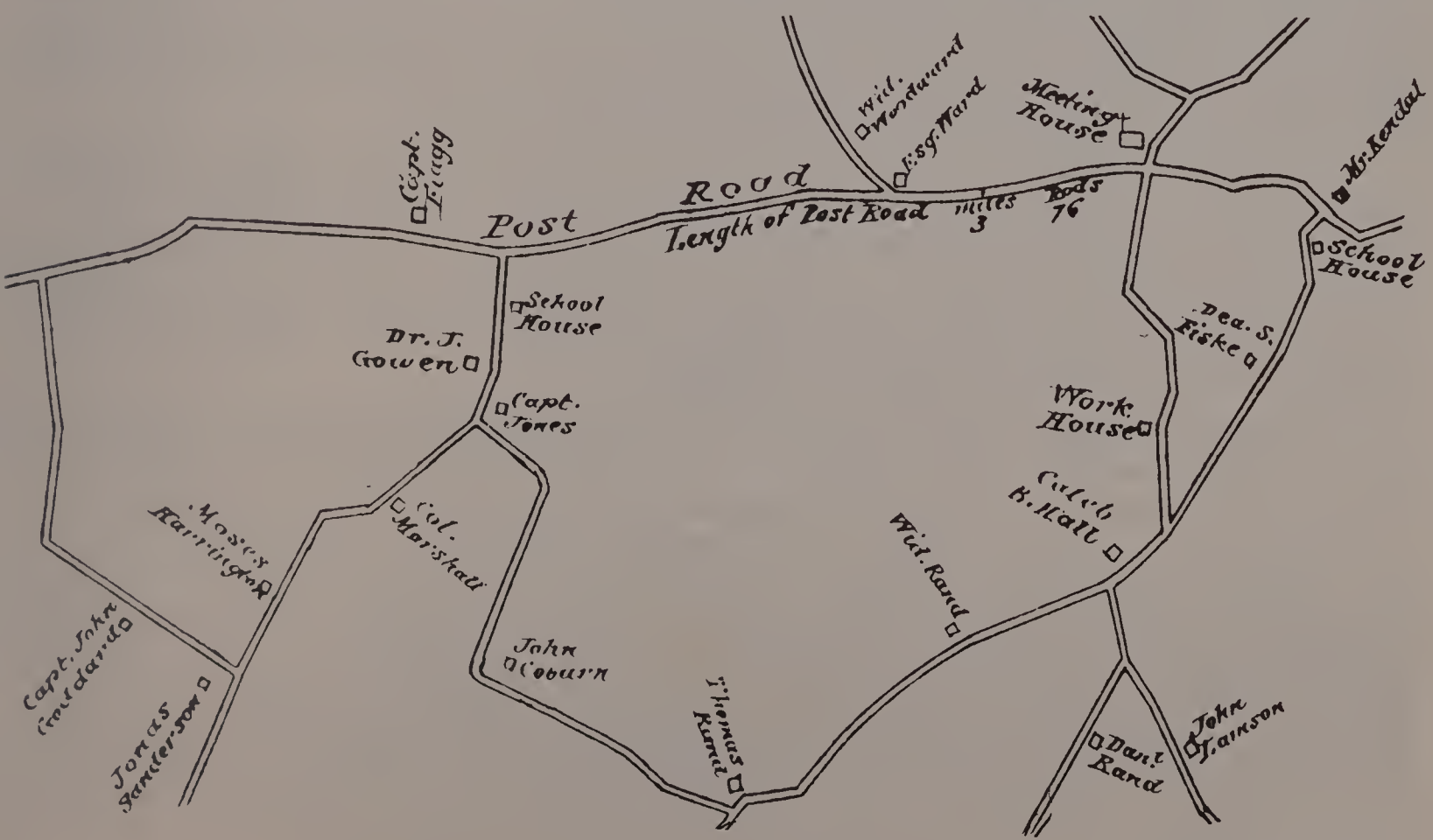
tioned neither any cellar hole that Brock himself filled after buying the place in 1894 nor the toppling remants of the old barn that Miss Kelsey had sketched at the bottom of her agreement of sale. But we have letters from two fellow members, both former town officials and scions of old Weston families, affirming their recollections of the barn that stood behind the open well alongside the Ash Street stone wall, and of the cellar hole filled to the brim with dirt and rubble. These gentlemen are respectively Gilbert M. Upham of Barre, Massachusetts, longtime Superintendent of highways, and Charles H. Stimpson, Jr., our recently retired Town Engineer, now living in Bradford, Vermont. Each of them grew up here roaming these fields as boys.

By now you have guessed of course that the foundation at 221 Ash Street had held the "mansion house" which Nathaniel Wheaton, housewright, bought of John Brown of Newton, Gentleman, in 1772 with a barn and 67 acres plus two 13 acre parcels for 525 pounds.

If John Howe, British Spy, were in Rip van Winkle style, to revisit Weston, now that 199 years have come and gone, he'd never think of "the house of one Wheaton" as being "in a remote part of the town." He'd be very close to Weston's exact geographical center where four streets could provide everything that might be found in the form of confronting, converging, colliding, and challenging while cyclists, drivers, pedestrians, and riders race toward daily tasks and pleasures. Except for the town's business section, no other area of Weston could be less "remote."

For he would be at 221 Ash Street, facing the Case Estates of world famous Arnold Arboretum. The sounds he heard would come from a conglomeration of trucks, school buses and cars. Those headed north and east on Ash and Wellesley Streets would come to a halt at Newton Street. Those destined for every direction would engage in tilting matches amongst themselves and others. Cars and school buses to and from Case House, Field School, and Alphabet Lane would swell the raucous chorus.

Remote it was, though, in 1775. Kingsbury's 1794 map shows how isolated was the house marked "Dan'l Rand." Except for straightening out a few sharp angles 50 years ago at the junction of Newton and Wellesley Streets, those roads are the same as in Nathaniel Wheaton's time. The stone walls have no doubt been shored up and rebuilt a few times. The map shows that even 17 years after Nathaniel died, the nearest house to his was that



Continued on Page 4

of John Lamson on Newton Street, now known as "The 1740 House." Via a stonewall that ran northwest as the crow flies stood the home of Thomas Rand about half a mile away where Mrs. John W. Scott, our fellow charter member, lives. A little closer by road would be only the house of Caleb B. Hall where the Case House has stood since the 1880's, and the house at 137 Wellesley Street now occupied by Richard A. Howard, director of the Arboretum.

When Isaac Jones' faithful kitchen servant told those belligerent Liberty Men who threatened her that "they sent them off to Jericho swamp," she was telling only a half lie, or if you prefer, a half truth, because as many of our old timers recall, the Route 20 By-Pass, which was built under the guidance of another of our fellow charter members, Raymond W. Coburn, in 1930, was constructed over what was until then quite a "dismal swamp." Sections of those lowlands beset us even today in our struggle with traffic and parking.

Before releasing this issue of the BULLETIN to the printer, we climaxed more than a year's research by satisfying ourselves that our statements are solidly documented. To ensure the safekeeping of this sizeable material for all time, we are donating it to the Weston Historical Commission for storage in the Town Hall vault. It is unfair to ask why previous owners didn't trace their titles back to the beginning as we were able to do. Let's put outselves in Eli Brock's position 80 years ago when he bought "with the buildings thereon" what was known as "The Caswell Place." Three months previously perhaps he had read about that British spy, John Howe, in the First Parish Calendar-Supplement for March, 1894. There he was told "The house on Mr. Ripley's farm was built previous to 1740 by Dr. Wheaton . . . . . evidently wealthy . . . hardware, locks, etc. were brought from England . . . . the double faced walls built on the estate by Dr. Wheaton, were known as the finest in town." And continuing, the writer declared "During the Revolution, tradition says, the Tory doctor secreted the British spy . . ." What reason or right would we have had to question such authority?

If, 8 decades ago, that tale was already an established "tradition," the exposure of the fallacy in our January issue, Vol. X, No. 2, was more overdue than we had first thought. At least a whole century of misconception and wrong information had saturated the minds and writings of several generations. It would not be enough just to prove the "tradition" false. We had to find out who the real Mr. Wheaton was, where he lived, what his political affiliations were, and what became of him and his family. Our plan to bring out the colorful history of the people who did own and live in that venerable Ripley Lane house that so innocently had been "doctored" would have to wait.

Cue after cue and clue after clue led us into dead ends and dark alleys as we worked our way from Wellesley northward, dodging first to the east and then to the west. One of the two 13 acre parcels was easy to spot as a woodlot because of being "bounded southerly on the line Between the Towns Weston and Needham." This plot was south of Bogle Street west of Dr. Riis' house at 765 Wellesley Street and east of the Winter Street residence of our fellow members, the John deCamps.

Nathaniel Wheaton died July 4, 1777 of smallpox, having lost his wife, Molly, and their younger daughter, Amy, from the same dread disease within the previous few months. He left only son Caleb and a daughter Molly. Caleb moved to Cambridge where he died intestate in 1815, leaving no issue. Molly returned to her birthplace, Roxbury, and married Samuel Davis, Yeoman, and changed her first name to "Polly." In East Cambridge Probate Court we found an affidavit signed on July 5, 1777 by Nathaniel's brother-in-law, Joseph Richards, and by Joel Smith saying, "We being at the House of Nathaniel Wheaton in Weston on Tuesday, the fourth of July inst., Mr. Wheaton called us to have witness that it was his will that Mr. Sam.'l Fisk of Weston should administer upon

Continued on Page 5

his estate and take care of his effects and it appeared to us that Mr. Wheaton was sound in mind though but an Hour before he Died." Fisk was appointed administrator, and Messrs. Josiah Smith, Lt. Abraham Jones, and Thomas Rand appraisers.

In 1785 Caleb of Cambridge and Molly of Roxbury sold the mansion house and barn with 19 acres plus a 13 acre parcel of land to Daniel Rand, Cordwainer, for 210 pounds, and 22 acres to his brother, Benjamin Rand, for 110 pounds, making 67 acres in all. Here we ran into a maze of transactions between many Rands, involving wills, estates, guardianships for two non compos mentis relatives. After Daniel Rand's death in 1847, his brother Willard seemed steadily to buy out the widow and the other brothers. Thence through him title passed to Stephen C. Bent, John McAuliffe, George Coolidge, John Coburn, Francis Caswell, Eli Brock and his wife, Agnes Peirce Coburn Brock. The Brocks were married Oct. 10, 1894, the bridegroom having taken possession of the 22 acres with buildings thereon for $3,600 from Mr. Caswell the previous June 2nd. In 1900 Brock lost 9.93 of this acreage through landtaking by the Metropolitan Water Works. He and his wife died within nine months of each other in 1942.

Finally, the terrain being what it was and still is, the servant and the spy the next evening probably avoided roads as much as possible and set out over fields in a straight line. Part of the Wheaton 67 acres is that part of the Arboretum running from Ash to Wellesley Streets. It is probable that a path along the stone wall often described in the deeds was used. Coming onto Wellesley Street in front of Thomas Rand's (Scott) house at the corner of Chestnut, the pair again could have struck across fields for the corner of Love Lane and in so doing, skirted the edge of Sanderson's Hill. In a later issue we shall discuss the patriotic status of our friend Wheaton during those anxious days of '75 when he so gladly cooperated with his friend Isaac Jones' request that he hide the spy overnight. A miracle could turn up a picture of the old house where the spy slept. Who knows,—we might uncover a story of the present house's youth in Newburyport. Our work is never done.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I want to thank Homer Lucas for starting me off on this exciting chase more than a year ago when he voiced some skepticism regarding the fabled Dr. Wheaton. A detailed search over several months resulted in the exposé in our January issue, Vol. X, No. 2. At the same time he handed me several other papers including the 1772 Brown to Wheaton deed and the 1777 appraisal of the latter's estate. The task of locating the real "Wheaton Place" proved the most arduous, frustrating but always fascinating experience of all. An inspiration in January to contact old friend Gilbert Upham for his knowledge and guidance in putting together various puzzles as to Weston's old roads and terrain, proved most fruitful. It was he who excitedly reminded me a month later that the Wheaton House is shown "in plain sight" on Kingsbury's 1794 map!! It was shown then as "Dan'l Rand" who had bought it 9 years before. For his many trips and letters from his home in Barre I am equally grateful. And finally, of course, I would not have had the temerity to release this story without the reliable assurance of our beloved historian, Brent Dickson. After he went over every step of every deed, pronounced the reasoning sound, and put his stamp of approval on the conclusion reached, we could only say for the thousandth time, "Thank you, Lord, for WESTON."

H. G. T.

BRING THEM TO US

Limited editions of certain publications dealing with New England and its people soon become rare and hard to find. Before submitting them for re-cycling please bring them any Wednesday afternoon to our Curator, Mrs. Fraser, at the Josiah Smith Tavern between the hours of two and four. Duplicates create no problem. The Public Library and those at our Isaac Fiske Law Office and the Junior and Senior High Schools would welcome such publications as *OLD TIME NEW ENGLAND, THE RURAL VISITOR, NEW ENGLAND GALAXY,* and *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF LEGAL HISTORY.*

CONGRATULATIONS SHEFFIELD!

Happy word comes from the president of the Sheffield Historical Society in the western part of the state that it has received a matching grant of $2,700 from the Massachusetts American Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission. Four of us visited Sheffield and gave our colored slide lecture last fall on the fun we had in restoring the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office. Our Sheffield friends then voted unanimously to make restoration of the Parker L. Hall 1822 Law Office (see BULLETIN for October 1972, Vol. IX, No. 1) their own chief Bicentennial project. Also April's MAINE HISTORY NEWS contains Part I of a 2-part article on Maine's early law offices under the caption *STEPPING STONES TO GREATNESS*. Part 2 is scheduled for the July issue, and again we are hopeful that Weston's example and efforts will prove equally contagious "down East."

REMINDER

The Endowment Fund grows in several ways:—special contributions, memorial gifts, and life memberships.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to list below the names of those who have joined our Society since our last issue:

Mr. and Mrs. Leon J. Atamian, 4 Pheasant Trail, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Ferguson, 17 Conant Road, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. Burton Foster, 29 Woodchester Drive, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Howard, 41 Juniper Road, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Kingsbury, 21 Boulevard Road, Wellesley
Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Ling, 55 Silver Hill Road, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Plunkett, 100 Black Oak Road, Weston
Mrs. Frances Upham Spaulding, Providence Road, Danielson, Conn.
Miss Charlotte A. Stevens, Arnold Avenue, Manomet.

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1974, Vol. XI, No. 1

THE ABRAHAM HEWS HOUSE AT 651 BOSTON POST ROAD

How many of the legends surrounding this house can be authoritatively documented? For example, did Abraham Hews actually build "New England's earliest pottery" here in the year 1765? Did he, at the same time, also build the little house that still stands today as an almost hidden ell of the brick-ended addition, shown above? Was this addition erected in 1824 by his son, Abraham Hews, Jr.? See the story beginning on Page 2.

NOVEMBER 6 ANNUAL MEETING OFFERS NOSTALGIC PROGRAM ON TWO OF WESTON'S MOST HISTORIC STREAMS

The Joshia Smith Tavern's ball room will be the scene of our Society's annual meeting Wednesday evening, November 6th, at 8 P.M. After committee and officer reports, the Nominating Committee, headed by Samuel J. McDonald, will present a slate of three directors for terms of three years each. The terms of Mesdames Dwinnell and French and of Donald D. Douglass are expiring. Continuing for another year are Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine and Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson 3rd, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., and Harold G. Travis, and for two more years, Mrs. Kirkbride Patterson, and Messrs. Erlund Field and Edward W. Marshall. The committee welcomes suggestions, and nominations from the floor will also be in order. With so much talent concentrated in Weston, a strong board is assured as the Society plans its prominent role in commemorating the imminent Bicentennial of the American Revolutionary War.

(Continued on Page 8)

"ABRAHAM HEWS'S BOOK WESTON 1780"

These are the words inscribed in the front of a ledger, preserved at the Baker Library of Harvard Business School, in which Abraham Hews kept an erratic record of sales of his "wares" and other goods from 1780 until 1810. On the inside front cover is a list of sales made in 1774 and, if held and read in reverse, the ledger has several pages devoted to the totaling up and marking as "settled" of several accounts with local individuals. The rest of the pages between are disappointingly blank.

Abraham Hews may not have been a systematic record keeper but his name has survived as one of the few early potters of this area. His name, is, in fact, better known to American ceramic historians than it is to the present citizens of Weston. To eighteenth century residents his name must have been a household word. According to the ledger it was to Hews they turned to rent a horse, or horse and sleigh, for a trip to Framingham or to Boston. It was Hews who had a pair of oxen to rent out for Spring plowing and it was Hews who had spare bushels of wheat and rye as well as corn, pork, and beans to sell his neighbors. We get the impression that Abraham Hews was a busy farmer as well as potter and, to paraphrase an old saying, did not live by "pots" alone.

The names of the purchasers read like an eighteenth century Weston Directory. Some of the best customers were Harrington, Livermore, Flagg, Jones, Sanderson, Rand, Fisk, Wheaton, Ward, Brackett, and Greenleaf. Rarely is the purchased ware specified as to type in the ledger with the majority of entries being as terse as the following 1774 examples:

April 19	Isaac Flagg	ware	0.2.7
April 29	Isaac Jones	ware	0.2.0
May 9	Jonas Sanderson	ware	0.1.0

Fortunately, between 1789 and 1806, a few entries are designated as "milkpan," "chamber pot," "mug," "pot," or "porringer." Most frequently mentioned are milkpans:

July 30 (1789)	Doct Ward	3 milkpans	0.1.9
July 23 (1803)	Isaac Flagg	2 milkpans 1 pot	0.2.3
June 16 (1806)	Abram Fisk	½ Doz milkpans	2.9.0

Aside from these five types the ledger gives little hint of the variety of redware produced by Hews at this period. We need to know a great deal more about the man and his ware.

Town Records give us a few fairly reliable facts. We glean that Abraham Hews, born 1741, came from a Watertown family and had married Lucy Jennison in January of 1766. On May 30th Abraham (Junior) was born. Lucy, the first daughter, was born in Weston July 3, 1768, the year that Abraham was first taxed as a new resident. The often stated date of 1765 for his establishment of a pottery in Weston is probably inaccurate and 1769 would appear a more likely date. More evidence is needed on this point.

Between 1770 and 1787 at least seven more children were born. We know from the muster-roll of Captain Lamson's Militia Company that Abraham served in 1775 at Lexington but we need to know more of his war-time activities. Later he served the Town as a Warden twice, Surveyor of Highways, 1784, Surveyor of Hemp, 1790, and Fence Viewer in 1802. It was during these years, as the ledger indicates, he was managing both a productive pottery and a productive farm. This farm, according to the 1801 tax inventory consisted of;- 1 house, 1 separate shop, 1 Bake House (pottery kiln?), 1 other building, 2 barns, 2 acres tilled, 6 acres upland, 8 acres fresh meadow, 19 acres pasture, 20 acres woodland, 10 acres unimproved, 3 acres unimprovable, 1 horse, 2 oxen, 8 steers and cows, and 3 swine. Eighty-eight out of the two-hundred fifty landowners had oxen so one can understand why Abraham's were needed for odd jobs.

(Continued on Page 7)

THE BEACON ON SANDERSON HILL

Harold G. Travis

Our story starts on September 4, 1778 when from his Boston headquarters, General William Heath wrote to the WAR COUNCIL asking them whether or not they agreed "with the absolute necessity as soon as may be to fix proper signals for calling out the militia of the State with the greatest expedition should occasion require it. If your Honors approve of and define it, I will order it to be done immediately . . ." Along the margin he added: "I am this moment informed there is no beacon either on the Blue or Malden hills."

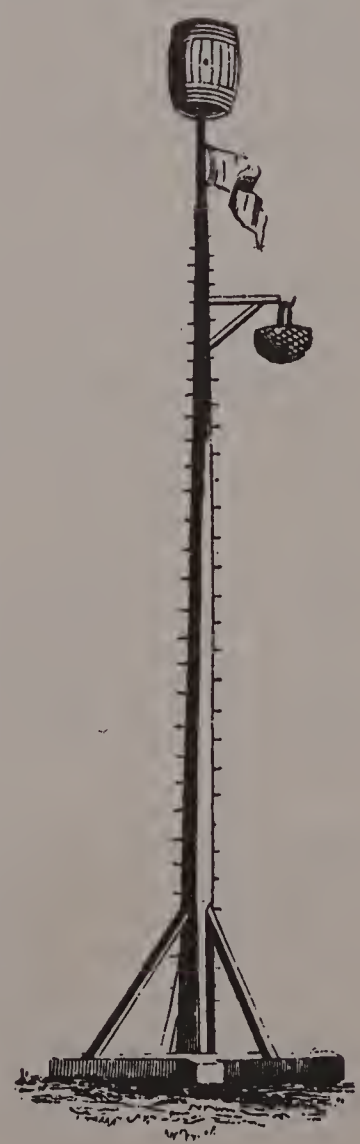
Action was immediate. On the following day a proclamation signed by John Avery, for the State of Massachusetts Bay Council was delivered to the General. It read:— "WHEREAS Major General Heath has represented to this Board the necessity of fixing proper signals for calling in the Militia of this State with the greatest expedition, and that if the Council approve of, and desire it, he will order such signals to be erected, whereupon it is advised by the Council, ---- That General Heath be and he is hereby requested forthwith to erect upon the highest or most proper place of the Hill known by the name of Blue Hills, such Bacons or Signals as he shall think proper. Also that he erect upon the highest or most proper place of the Hill in Weston formerly called Coolidge's Hill, and upon the Hill in Malden a little to the Northward of the Meeting House in said town,— such Bacons or Signals as he shall Judge Sufficient for Alarming and Calling in the Militia, and it is

ORDERED That the foregoing Signals are not to be fired until the Signal be given from Bacon Hill in the Town of Boston unless they have certain evidence of the approach of an enemy from Rhode Island."

No time was lost. On September 7, 1778 an order came direct to Major Lamson---- Weston on the War Council's letterhead and signed by John Avery which read: "You are hereby ordered and directed to detach from the Militia of Weston a capable Sergeant and five Men for the purpose of attending the Bacon in that Town and to follow such orders as they shall receive from Major General Heath for that purpose."

Simultaneously dated September 7, 1778 General Heath himself sent a letter to the Sergeant of the Guard at Malden Bacon notifying him "You are detached with men for the purpose of guarding the Bacon on Malden Hill and for Sitting Fire thereto when the Signal is Given from the Bacon in Boston. You are to keep a Sentinel day and night by relief at the Bacon, his Duty is to preserve it from being Injured by any Person or Persons—and constantly to be observing the Bacon in Boston. If he observes it to be on Fire He is immediately to call for You upon your own view of it, being certain that it is on Fire, You will immediately Sit Fire to your Own—but not otherwise . . . You will Inculcate on your Sentinels the greatest vigilance in Duty and acquaint them that they will be liable to Suffer Death at the Discretion of a Court Martial, should they be found absent from or sleeping on their post." On the lower left hand corner of this order, General Heath noted *"ORDER OF LIKE TENOR AND DATE TO THE SERG.T AT WESTON."*

When, 8 days later on September 15, 1778 General Sullivan wrote General Heath from his Providence headquarters: "I would likewise recommend to your consideration . . . the use of beacons



Here is The Boston Beacon for whose light Weston's vigilant sentinels on Sanderson Hill had to maintain a constant 24 hour daily watch. Was Weston's own beacon a replica of Boston's? Who will find its remains? All Weston is urged to help solve the challenging mystery for Weston's commemoration of the American Revolutionary War's Bicentennial.

on commanding eminences to communicate an alarm", Heath was able to reply on September 17th ". . . in order speedily to alarm and collect the Militia I sometime since ordered a number to be erected and have kept sentinels constantly at them with written instructions for their conduct. . ."

Additional proof that the beacon at Weston was in operation is found in General Heath's letter to the War Council on October 28, 1778 wherein we find this paragraph:

"Permit me to request to be informed whether any number of bacons other than those at Stoughton, Malden, and Weston have been erected by order of the Hon. Council, and if not, whether it would not be advisable to do it as soon as may be."

We are indebted to the Massachusetts Historical Society for having given us access to the original Heath Papers from which the above are quoted verbatim. Copies made therefrom are in our files and in those of the Bicentennial Committee of Weston for safekeeping in the Town Hall vault. In addition we have copies of a great many additional copies of correspondence between Commander in Chief George Washington and Major General Heath as well as of letters that passed between Heath and other generals in Rhode Island and New York where the beacon system was subsequently put into effect.

Research by the Bicentennial Committee confirms that what the War Council had designated as "the Hill in Weston formerly called Coolidge's Hill" became known as "Sanderson's Hill". Indeed our "Sergeant at the Beacon" was Jonas Sanderson whose house on the western slope stood about 800 feet south of Love Lane on today's Highland Street until it burned to the ground in 1897.* The only expense for guarding the beacon on Sanderson Hill is found in the following annual reports of Isaac Hobbs, War Treasurer. In 1778 he entered:

FOR GUARDING THE BACON (Beacon)

Pd. Mr. Jonas Sanderson in ful	28	12	
Pd. Mr. Nath'el Felch in ful for his Son	22	8	
Pd. Joel Harrington in full	22	8	
Pd. Nath'el Parmenter in full	22	8	
Pd. Thad's Peirce in full	4	12	
Pd. Daniel Rand in full	27	–	
	£127	8	0

and in his May 22, 1779 to March 2, 1781 report, are noted:

Pd. Mr. Sam'll Livermore in ful for his Son guarding the Beacon	4	12	0
Tho's Graves in full Ditto	4	12	0
do. Tho's Rand in for his Sons guarding ye Beacon	24	0	0

Expenses of the Beacon itself cannot be found. The only entry other than recorded above is the report of Samuel Fisk, Town Treasurer for the period from March 2, 1778 to March 1, 1779 which contains this item: "Pd. . . . .to 3 of the Selectmen going to ye: Counsel in order to get ye: guard dismissed yt: was set to guard ye: Baken erected in sd. Town of Weston £6– 0--0"

We should be thankful that neither Weston's beacon, nor those at Stoughton and Malden, ever had to be set afire. The same can be said of those in Rhode Island, but it is recalled that one of them tried a "rehearsal" which despite widespread efforts to prepare people for it, was responsible for serious panics in many isolated communities as far away as Connecticut. Indeed any rehearsals were forbidden and when a few years later General Heath was headquartered at Peekskill, New York he wrote on August 29, 1781 to Major General McDougall "I am informed that the Bacon on Fishkill Mountain has been twice of late lit on fire and the country thoroughly alarmed, which false alarms you are culpable, are pregnat (sic) with most dangerous consequences, for the People having been once and again deceived by false alarms will scarcely believe a real one the consequences may be

*See Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, January 1973 Vol. IX, No. 2.

fatal . . . If guards have made false alarms they ought to receive the most exemplary punishment and I request you to take such measures for that purpose as you may judge proper . . ."

Two questions about our Weston Beacon still are unanswered. What sort of structure was it? Where specifically on Sanderson Hill *did* it stand? Did it simulate the one on Beacon Hill in Boston for whose fire our sentinels on General Heath's orders, had constantly to watch? (See illustration). Certainly had our own structure been that substantial, the War Treasurer's account would have contained some itemization of expenditures. To get the clear view of the Boston Beacon, ours had to be located somewhere within fifty yards of the center of the summit which, once it is reached, is quite broad. At the time of the War and afterwards, Sanderson Hill was cultivated as a farm. Later, cattle grazed there. Today only ancient stonewalls remind us of those days. The terrain has completely reforested itself and the view of Beacon Hill in Boston even in winter is now obscured by large and dense growths of trees. Finding the exact spot where the beacon stood is not simple. A trained archaeologist, employed by the Bicentennial Committee, spent several hours trying to locate such clues as ashes from the fires our men would have built to keep warm, remnants of a shelter from the wintry blasts, an arm or leg of the beacon itself, or even old rum bottles whose contents were used for the humane and human purpose of keeping warm. Somewhere up there on Sanderson Hill, and some time, some one will somehow come across one or more of such tell-tale relics. Surely our Beacon would have comprised much more than a bucket of tar impracticably suspended from the top of a tall tree which would itself have burned down as soon literally as the heat was on.

Plans for fitting Bicentennial observance are rapidly approaching final form. Suffice it to say that they include a commemorative boulder and plaque and other exercises of historical interest and significance to Weston people, old and young. We can be proud of having had Sanderson Hill chosen as one of three surrounding Boston where a beacon signal if needed would have alerted all of Eastern Massachusetts to an enemy's approach. While such an alarm thankfully never had to be fired, Sergeant Jonas Sanderson and the men who served with him under Major Lamson were at all times wide awake, reliable, and ready. In 1775 Weston had been fortunate that due to the report of John Howe the British spy, the Battles of Concord and Lexington did not occur here. We can be equally thankful that in the long war that followed, no British troops came through here except as prisoners.

Listed below are documents from the Heath Papers that through the cooperation and courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, were reproduced. Copies may be seen in our Town files.

Sep. 4, 1778: General Heath to Massachusetts Bay War Council urging immediate establishment of beacons.

Sep. 5, 1778: War Council's Proclomation authorizing General Heath to erect upon the "highest or most proper place of the Hill in Weston . . ."

Sep. 7, 1778: War Council to Weston (Major Lamson) and Stoughton (Col. Benj. Gill) directing "to detach a capable Sergeant and five men for the purpose of attending the Bacon . . ."

Sep. 7, 1778: War Council to "Sergeant Commanding the Bacon at the great Blue Hill" instructing him "You are detached with six men to Guard the Bacon . ."

Sep. 7, 1778: General Heath to Sergeant of the Guard at Malden Bacon: "order of like tenor to the Serg't at Weston . . ."

Sep. 15, 1778: General Sullivan at Providence to General Heath recommending Beacons on commanding Eminences to communicate an Alarm which might be the Means more universally and rapidly given than by any other mode of Conveyance."

Dec. 20, 1779: General Heath to Governor Clinton (3 pages) saying that General Washington in bitter winter had told General McDougall to take the

guard off the Butter Hill Beacon, and so he, Heath felt guards at other beacons, dependent on Butter Hill, were superfluous and should be taken off.

Dec. 23, 1779: Gen. Washington (3 pages) to Heath regarding many details including Beacons.

Dec. 27, 1779: Heath to Washington (4 pages) reminding Commander in Chief he had been bypassed on the Butter Hill Beacon! More about provisions, clothing, money,—scarcity of, etc.

Dec. 28, 1779: Heath to Patterson respecting Beacons.

Other references include: *Sentry, or Beacon Hill the Beacon and the Monument of 1635-1790* by William W. Wheildon, and *The Beacon on Sentry Hill, Boston, Massachusetts* by Leroy L. Thwing (October 1938, Vol. XXIX, No. 2; October 1938 Old-Time New England.)

IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we record the deaths of three faithful charter members:

Katharine Pratt Dewey, wife of former Selectman William R. Dewey, Jr.; Miss Florence P. Gould, sister of Elizabeth G. Flint; and McKinley H. Warren, who, with his wife Vanetta, moved to Concord a year ago.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you move out of town, your BULLETIN and other non-profit organization mailings are not forwardable, and we both lose out. Be sure to let us know whenever your address changes! Just notify us through Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193. Then come back as soon and as often as you can.

A BICENTENNIAL GIFT SUGGESTION

Why not give a life membership in the Weston Historical Society to someone close to you on the occasion of a birthday, wedding or other meaningful event such as Thanksgiving or Christmas? Tax deductible, it adds to our growing Endowment Fund, the income of which will only and always be used to promote the worthwhile program of our organization. During the Bicentennial and later, there will be many projects planned that will be greatly aided by your contributions. Such memberships, as is true of other gifts, may be made as memorials and will be so recorded in the permanent records.

OCTOBER 19TH FOLIAGE TRIP TO BARRE

The Barre Historical Society, hosts for the fall meeting of the Bay State State Historical League, of which our Society is a member, has cordially invited all of our members to attend. As these meetings are always stimulating, educational, and pleasantly worthwhile, it is hoped that car pools for the hour and a quarter drive to scenic and historic Barre will be formed.

Registration and a social hour will precede an address at ten o'clock on "Massachusetts Towns and the Revolution: Teaching your Local History in the High School." Panel discussions throughout the day will occur on matters of lively interest, and various tours through the little town of Barre have been arranged. The meeting of Bay State Historical League at 3 will last an hour and we are all invited to attend. Occasions such as this enable us to exchange ideas and information with our contemporaries in the more than 300 Massachusetts historical societies that belong to the League. For further details, call the Editor at 899-4515. Advance reservations are required.

ABRAHAM HEWS'S BOOK – *Continued from Page 2*

Abraham Junior appears to have been an ambitious young man with no taste for farming who gradually took over active management of the pottery. At age twenty-eight he married Martha Griffen of East Sudbury. In 1797 we find him in the Weston Independent Light Infantry Company as a "Serjeant". Documentation for his title of "Captain" is needed. His name is not among those who served this Company as Captain between 1787 and 1830. After being a Tythingman and Surveyor of Lumber he became an Assessor and in 1802 a member of the School Committee. By 1818 when he inherited the pottery he was fifty-two years old and a respected member of the Community. The procession to Church that year of Abraham and Martha followed by their six sons and five daughters,– Samuel, Abraham, Marshall, George, Horatio, and Horace, Martha, Mary, Sophronia, Celinda, and baby Susan, must have made an impressive sight. The pot-works flourished under his direction or at least provided an adequate income. In 1828 he was elected a Deacon of the Church and served for twenty-one years. At eighty-three he resigned and was succeeded by his middle aged sons, Samuel and Marshall. Abraham III had been helping with the pot-works but preferred to be a Jeweler in Boston, according to the Directories, and died there in 1868. It was left for the fifth son, Horatio and his son, Albert Horatio, to carry on the pottery. It outgrew even their new plant and the whole operation was moved to North Cambridge about 1871. When Albert Horatio, the great grandson of the first potter, died in 1904 family ownership ceased but the firm of A. H. Hews Co. carried on until recent times.

It is about the early redware pot-works, however, that we seem to know so little. The finding of the 1780 ledger is only a small beginning. Several Weston residents have direct connections with families mentioned in the ledger and possess pieces which traditionally were made by Hews. Other Weston residents possess scraps of information based on oral tradition, and still others have done research in deeds, newspapers, etc. that have revealed new facts about the family houses and property. Scattered, this information, like the few attributed Hews pieces, is not available for scholarly study. Therefore, I propose, in the name of the Society, to establish two information files to be available to future researchers of Hews and his wares. One would be the personal data file and the other would be the photographic record of existing pieces owned by any individual or organization. This file of attributed pieces is important to establish now for use in a comparison study when an official archaeological investigation produces documented sherds. Such an investigation, carried out by trained historical archaeologists, is urgently needed if a definite identification of Hews ware is ever to be made.

Such a project, sponsored by the Weston Historical Society, would help the cause of American ceramic history. A coordinated file is the first logical step towards this end but it will take great cooperation. It is my hope that all who have or know of Hews pieces will write me about them. A small, clear but inexpensive photo is essential for the record. Likewise, the data file could be rapidly built up if readers would pool their information. Their names would be recorded with documented information they supplied so that proper credits could be given in future publications. In a year I would like to be able to make an exciting Progress Report. Let's put it all together!

Barbara Gorely Teller (Mrs.)
115 Brook Street
Wellesley, Massachusetts 02181

The author of the above article as the daughter of our late Charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Gorely, Jr., had an early start into the ceramics field. Her parents founded and for many years headed internationally famous THE WEDGWOOD CLUB. A busy wife and mother, she has in her own right been Registrar, Assistant Curator, and Associate Editor of OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND for the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Presently she is a Research Specialist and Consultant on Historic Interiors. We echo her plea for pooling information so that our scattered and piecemeal data on Weston's own Hews Pottery may be combined and at last properly compiled and published . . . Editor

PROGRAM FOR ANNUAL MEETING – *Continued from Page 1*

Featured as speaker will be Gilbert M. Upham, now a resident of Barre, Massachusetts. A native son and descendant of one of our oldest families, Mr. Upham spent the first half century of his life here as an active citizen and town official. Particularly as former superintendent of highways, he is familiar with every section of the town from border to border. His topic will be:

STONY BROOK AND THREE MILE BROOK

The area surrounding these two streams once housed quite a substantial industrial empire. It did not lose its character until his early boyhood, and his recollections of the old buildings that lasted from Colonial days should be fascinating. Today's passers-by would little suspect that many of our beautiful estates are located where once flourished busy factories. This talk by one of our members will be of absorbing interest to old and young alike. Oldtimers and newcomers are urged to attend, and to bring children, grandchildren, and prospective members to the Josiah Smith Tavern on November 6th at 8 o'clock P.M.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue, the following have joined our Society and are welcomed into our active membership:–

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Caffrey, 227 Ash Street, Weston
Miss Catharine Cook, 5 Brewer Street, Cambridge
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent H. Hazard, 89 Larch Road, Cambridge
Mr. Stephen Hinds, 136 South Street, Marlborough
Mrs. Marylee C. Marsh, 61 Rowe Street, Auburndale
Dr. Anita L. Martin, 98 Love Lane, Weston
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Messina, 120 Beaver Road, Weston
Mrs. Amy J. Nychis, 17 Applecrest Road, Weston

Annual Dues: $3.00 per person, $5 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1975, Vol. XI, No. 2

NEXT SOCIETY MEETING, JANUARY 22ND

On Wednesday evening, January 22nd, at 8 o'clock in the Ball Room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, fellow member Homer C. Lucas will share with us many of the new items he has uncovered about the colorful, eventful and versatile life of **WESTON'S MOST PROMINENT PATRIOT: SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE.** The topic is particularly timely in view of the oncoming American Revolutionary War Bicentennial, and we hope you will bring friends, young and old, to pack the hall.

The directors at a recent meeting endorsed the continuance of our series of member talks. More than a dozen have already been given over the past several years, and we are asking for your help in uncovering additional talent which we all know exists. We are contemplating other activities such as perhaps an historic "Show and Tell" evening. Indeed we would welcome suggestions regarding topics and talent. Quite likely many people,—too modest to volunteer,—would gladly exhibit their wares if *you* were to ask them. The stories of Weston's past that are untold are numerous. Address your suggestions to the directors, c/o Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193.

BUTTONWOOD TWINS ON THE OLD POST ROAD

WESTON'S BICENTENNIAL TREES

After a townwide canvass by road, we've spotted only 10 trees in Weston that may have been standing as far back as the Revolutionary War. Only two are white oaks while all the rest are buttonwoods, the native variety of sycamore bearing the Latin name of "Plátanus Occidentalis" and sometimes called "planes" or "plane trees." According to George B. Emerson's authoritative "Report on the Trees and Shrubs Growing Naturally in the Forests of Massachusetts", originally published by the State in 1846 with a 4th edition in 1887, "it is the largest, grandest, and loftiest deciduous tree in America."

(Continued on Page 3)

IN MEMORIAM

We deeply regret the deaths since our last issue of two loyal and loved charter members of this Society, Messrs. Francis G. Goodale and Thomas H. McFarlin. Our sympathy goes out to their widows and to the members of their families.

NEWS OF BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

The annual winter meeting of the League whose membership comprises more than 350 Historical Societies and Commissions of Massachusetts akin to our own, will be held on Saturday, January 18th, with Boston University as host, at its George Sherman Union, 775 Commonwealth Ave., Boston. Registration begins at 10:30 A.M. and our own Mrs. Elizabeth Amadon, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission will be one of the principal speakers. The theme of the Conference will be "THE STATE AND THE LOCAL HISTORICAL AGENCY. It involves both the local historical societies and the local historical commissions. Speakers and discussions will center on new funding sources for historical projects and preservations. Officials of the Massachusetts State Archives, Council on the Arts and Humanities, Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission, and the Supervisor of Public Records will be there to answer questions. It is a great opportunity for members of our Society to participate and to bring back ideas that can prove most worthwhile to us in our program planning. Registration, coffee hour, luncheon and all sessions both morning and afternoon are available at a total cost of $5 per person. Reservations with checks payable to Boston University must reach American Studies Program, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, Mass. 02215 not later than January 13th. We hope you will join us there.

In the following article, Dr. Laska describes the benefits she and Mrs. Marylee C. Marsh as teachers of history at Regis and Weston High School respectively, derived from the last meeting. We were also delighted to greet again Mr. and Mrs. F. Leslie Ford, so Weston's representation numbered five in all. Since our Society is a member of the League each of us is entitled to attend. Inspirational indeed have been those gatherings of the past few years at Plymouth, Falmouth, Newburyport, Uxbridge, Pittsfield, Sterling, Cambridge and other fascinating towns throughout the Commonwealth. To receive the Bay State Bulletin, filled with what contemporary societies are doing and other historic material, call the Editor 899-4515, about becoming an associate member for a nominal sum.

A MOST SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

Dr. Vera Laska

The annual fall meeting of the Bay State Historical League took place in Barre, Massachusetts on Saturday October 19, 1974. Co-hosts were Barre Historical Society and the Barre Historical Commission. The meeting was the concluding event of the Bicentennial celebration of this charming town. Its celebrations started in early April and continued with about a dozen events throughout the year. We are happy that our sister Massachusetts town was blessed with gorgeous weather during the entire day—as if the heavens wanted to contribute to the joy of the whole town.

We wish to comment especially on the careful, efficient preparations for this meeting. Not only were the logistics of meeting places, lunch, and sight-seeing perfectly arranged, but the memorial pamphlet was thought through in a logical manner. Participants could read between the lines, the loving care that went into its writing.

One of the main events was a presentation by Professor Richard L. Bushman and his able assistant, Betty Pruett, who acquainted us with Boston University's project in the nation's bicentennial, their subject being "The Town of Concord." The end product is a series of guidelines for secondary and perhaps college level teachers and students who may undertake similar studies of their own towns. This part of the program "Massachusetts Towns and the Revolution—Teaching Local History in the High School" was most interesting and, in itself, worth the trip. It was lucky for Weston that Mrs. Marsh of the High School History Department was also present.

We were entertained with "Historical Sketches" by Rev. Francis B. Kelly who reminisced over the past two centuries of Barre's history. After lunch we visited several historic buildings and especially enjoyed the commentator who was our guide at the Historical Society's town museum:—he turned out to be our November guest speaker, former Westonite, fellow-member, Gilbert M. Upham! Thank you, Barre, for your hospitality!

 (Continued from Page 1)

THIS TERCENTENARY TREE WAS PARTLY IN WESTON TILL 1951
Has been known as THE STATION TREE since 1749

The owners of the two oldest oaks which span their entire front yard on Skating Pond Road just off the old Boston Post Road, are fellow members, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Doyle, Jr. Both oaks are in good condition and are estimated to be from 200 to 250 years old. Three other large oaks abutting the Doyles are felt to be slightly younger.

The 8 venerable Buttonwoods are located as follows: Two, close together, are on North Avenue across the street from the Weston Dog Ranch and about 200 feet west of Viles Street. One is in healthy shape, the other needs food and care. Our third veteran, the only one not at roadside, is found to be excellently fed and pruned in the side yard of the historic Nathaniel Bemis house at 216 Conant Road. Four more are to be found on the old Boston Post Road. Driving westward from the Town Green, we soon come to the hillside immediately beyond the Christian Science Church. There opposite the bank building and just before coming to the cellar hole of the old Lamson house which was condemned and destroyed in 1940, looms a graceful tree on whose broad base rests a "sucker" that may, in another century or so, attain the height but not the girth of its parent. A few hundred feet ahead on the left, beyond the old Farmers' Burying Ground and just this side of the bole of the historic "Burgoyne Elm" is another healthy buttonwood surrounded by tall pines and the fast-growing scion of the old mother elm under whose majestic branches the disheartened, bedraggled, and hungry remnants of Burgoyne's army, more than 2,000 of them, slept one cold October night in 1777 as the last stop before Boston after their capture at Saratoga.

Crossing the Post Road to a point just barely beyond Soldiers' Park and the intersection of Fisk Lane, we find the two aged sentinels that for centuries faced the Burgoyne Elm, and since 1792 and 1805 respectively, Central Cemetery and the Isaac Fiske Law office. Since its restoration in the late sixties by many of us, the law office has been this Society's headquarters. Finally the eighth of our Bicentennial Buttonwoods is to be found immediately south of 119 Park Road, erstwhile East Newton Street, where it proudly presides over the Leo J. Martin Memorial Golf Course of today. It may not have seen any presidents or generals ride by on horseback or by stage, but in 1892 it watched the capture in the haymow of Ralph Seaverns' barn across the road, of four armed robbers. They had bombed and burglarized the grain store of Keefe Brothers in what we know as the Hersum Block in the Town Center. See Weston Historical Society Bulletin, March 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 3.

We only know of one other buttonwood in the town today. Even it has seen more than a century, but is not old enough to recall the Revolution. It faces the driveway entrance to 21 Chestnut Street and we keep wondering why there aren't more of them; also were the 9 that we have thus far "spotted" planted or did they sprout from seed? Once they start, they stay a long time. According to Emerson, the buttonwood was cultivated

SAMUEL LIVERMORE'S 1749 MAP
SHOWS "THE STATION TREE" ON THE LINE
BETWEEN WESTON, WELLESLEY (then Needham), AND NATICK.

in England 345 years ago. There it was called the "occidental plane." ("Plane tree, or platane, is classical; but buttonwood is the good, English, descriptive name which belongs to it.") Very little use of its wood is made in the arts because of its tendency to warp.

Think of the history our Bicentennial trees have witnessed, especially those on the old Post Road! The list of notables who passed them includes first General and then President George Washington, President John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, the Marquis de Lafayette, Paul Revere, Generals John Glover, Henry Knox, and of course innumerable times, our own General George Marshall who lived a short distance up Highland Street and whose beautiful home—twice moved, has stood since 1882 at 22 Church Street. Yes, our old Revolutionary War heroes have long since gone, but our buttonwoods live on and on, century after century.

Now without straining too much of a point, we could rightfully add to Weston's list of Bicentennial Trees a white oak that until 1951 actually was, in large part anyway, in the Town of Weston. Two of our illustrations support this assertion. In 1749, Samuel Livermore, Surveyor to the King, made the map reproduced herein through the tracing made by Mrs. Roy Dickson, wife of our Treasurer, of the original map now so weather-beaten and worn with age that it would not photograph clearly. After failing to locate it at the State Archives or the offices of any of the State, County, or local engineers we were ready to believe that it no longer existed. Interviewing our Natick neighbor, Henry Prunaret, owner of the historic Jennison 1738 house about a mile beyond the Weston line at the corner of Winter and Frost Streets, he suddenly surprised us by saying that in 1945 he had presented it to the Planning Board of the Town of Natick and that today it is in the safe custody of the Morse Institute, Natick's public library. That's where we found it. We were jubilant because so many of the deeds of Weston citizens in that vicinity specifically refer to "The Station Tree."

Why isn't it still in Weston? It was ceded to Natick by Weston Selectmen who in the Town's annual report for the year 1950 stated: "We magnanimously agreed to cede to Natick eight or ten houses on about two acres of land . . . and have asked the legislature to pass a special act establishing a new boundary." In the following spring, the Legislature did pass such an act and it was signed into law. Were the Weston line restored southwestward only 20 feet along Winter Street, the famous landmark of which Natick now can so rightfully be proud, would have been on Weston's list of Bicentennial trees without question. We can be sure that it was part of Weston during the Revolutionary War and for a century and three quarters thereafter.

How do we know it is at least 300 years old? Well, it was big enough in 1749 to have been chosen as "The Station Tree" by Samuel Livermore of Sudbury. It must have been at least 75 years old to have been selected. Today we measured its circumference as fourteen feet!

Why aren't more old trees standing today where so much Weston land is still uncleared? Our guide and counsellor in all the above is Mr. Gordon P. DeWolf, Jr., horticultural specialist of the Arnold Arboretum, who lives on the Case Estates. He points out that until the early 1800's most of the country's population huddled close to the seacoast, extending only to a limited degree into the wild and dangerous interior. Thus lands near the settlements were first cleared, step by step for farming, fuel, and grazing. Indeed we know that for its first 75 years, Weston was "The Farmers' Precinct" of Watertown. Only roadside trees and those on untillable rocky land were spared the woodman's axe.

By 1830 much of this clearing was abandoned as migration pushed first into upper New York State and then steadily westward. Thus much land hereabouts that had been needed before was allowed to go back to nature. Thankfully over 60% of Massachusetts is still covered by verdant forests and 33,000,000 of all New England's 40,000,000 acres are still wild growth. Our very own Sanderson Hill where the Beacon stood watch during the Revolution is now overgrown with timber but the stone walls on its summit and slopes attest to the existence of farms and pastures during Colonial days.

We're anxious to add to our list of Bicentennial trees. Some members may find candidates in the woods and other undisturbed areas of the town. If so, call the Editor, 899-4515, and an expert will investigate.

Harold G. Travis

SPEAKING OF BEACONS

Since descendants of Jonas Sanderson always maintained that Jonas burnt tar barrels at the beacon near his house to alert the countryside of British movements during the Revolution, the following quotation may lend some credibility to the family tradition. It is from the journal of Madame Riedesel, wife of the general who commanded German troops fighting under Burgoyne, and was written during the summer of 1778 in Cambridge where she and her husband were "Saratoga Prisoners."

> "The Americans, when they desire to collect their troops together, place burning torches of pitch upon the hill tops, at which signal everyone hastens to the rendezvous. We were once witnesses of this, when General Howe attempted a landing at Boston in order to rescue the captive troops. They learned of this plan, as usual, long beforehand, and opened barrels of pitch, whereupon, for three or four successive days, a large number of people, without shoes and stockings, and with guns on their backs, were seen hastily coming from all directions, by which means so many people came together so soon that it would have been a very difficult thing to effect a landing."

Such informal practises proved to be the forerunner of the beacon system ordered by General William Heath September 7, 1778.*

Brenton H. Dickson, III

**See Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, October 1974, Vol. XI, No. 1.*

JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

Open House Wednesdays one to three through February,—two to four rest of year. Come and inspect our newly decorated rooms. The original 1757 colors, professionally analyzed, have been brought back. We are pleased and hope that you, too, will enjoy them.

OBSOLETE WESTON WORDS

Many changes have taken place in the everyday vocabulary of Weston residents since our town was settled more than three hundred years ago. Some of these words are still used but certain old meanings of these words have disappeared.

Perhaps there is no better way to show this than to present a brief glossary of obsolete words, or common words with obsolete meanings. We have tried to confine these to Weston deeds on file in the Middlesex County Registry of Deeds,—to old Weston wills, or inventories of estates filed in our Probate Court, or to old Weston account books used in Weston stores as follows:

alien; To estrange. To transfer ownership of property to someone else.

allotted lands; Land which has not been transferred from the original owner to whom it had been allotted.

barleycorn; A measure of length, equal to the average length of a grain of barley,—one third of an inch.

behoof; To make use of, advantage, benefit.

calamanco; A European woolen fabric of satin weave and plain or striped design, imitating camel's hair cloth.

chain; A linear measure of 100 links, each 7.92 inches long, or 66 feet in all.

cordwainer; A shoe or boot maker.

cowpen farm; In his will, dated 1684, John Livermore left the property "comonly caled the cowpen farm" to his son, John Jr. The cowpen had been the enclosure for the town's stray cattle. On July 17, 1649, it was voted "to git a penn of one aker of ground fenced in with 4 Railes for the lodging of a heard in the woods — towards Sudbury (now Wayland) Bounds".

currier; One who curries and dresses leather after it is tanned.

dividend lands; On July 25, 1636, a grant of the "Great Dividends" was allotted to the freemen of Watertown. Beginning at the south boundary of Cambridge the land west through northern Weston was divided into four divisions east and west, each division being 160 rods (one half mile) in width. The divisions were numbered from the north. The most southern division was division four.

Each division was called a "squadron", and the lines between the divisions were called "squadron lines". There are many references in early Weston deeds to "dividend lands" and to "squadron lines". Very often a squadron line became the boundary of a property.

durra; A grain sorghum having medium sized, dry pithy stalks and narrow leaves.

ell; A measure, chiefly for cloth. It had different lengths in different countries. We have seen references to the English, the Flemish, and the Scotch ells which were 45 inches, 27 inches and 37 inches respectively.

entail; To settle lands on a person, or his descendants.

exonerate; To free one from further financial obligation.

fear nothing; English overcoating of the cheviot group. Heavy in weight,—the filling yarn aids in obtaining the characteristic shaggy face finish of the fabric. Much shoddy and other reworked fibers are used.

feoff; To invest, to put in possession, to enfeoff. This word or some other member of this word family (such as foeffee, feoffer, feoffed, feoffment, feoffing, enfeoffed and its corresponding words), are used in hundreds of early deeds.

freedom suit; (a) Designated clothing given a boy or girl upon completion of apprenticeship as indentured servants until age 21. Nathan Jones of Weston, son of Elisha Jones, gave Phineas Jones "A Hatt and Freedom Suit" on April 15, 1771. Nathan paid £5/8/3½. We have a copy of the indenture. Nathan had agreed to supply Phineas "with two good suits of apparel, one whereof to be new and give him four pounds in money." Phineas Jones was born March 29, 1750 and had just reached his 21st birthday. He was not a relative but his father, Moses Jones, had died July 21, 1755 when Phineas was five years old. The Town of Weston had helped with the expenses of his last illness. (b) Albert Bushnell Hart in his *Commonwealth History of Massachusetts* applies this term also to the several court cases brought by negroes seeking freedom from slavery after the adoption of the Massachusetts constitution of 1780. This constitution freed the slaves in Massachusetts, but it did not work automatically.

freeman; In general, a term applied to church members. Church members could vote! There were rare exceptions, however. (Josiah Jones, the grandfather of Isaac Jones of the Golden Ball Tavern became a freeman in 1690.)

garlix; also garlitz or garliz; The Oxford English Dictionary says it is a kind of linen cloth imported from Germany or Russia. This is the cloth most commonly sold in the store of Elisha Jones, according to his account book for 1745 - 1761.

gentleman; Anyone above the social condition of a yeoman. Many yeomen became gentlemen.

groat; An English silver coin worth four pence. Also any of several continental coins resembling this. "Not worth a groat."

hereditaments; Any form of property that can be inherited.

hogreave; (hoggreave, hogreve, hogreeve, Hog Reeve) a town officer whose duty was to impound stray hogs. Samuel Baldwin and Thomas Mansfield were appointed in 1755, and in 1826 seven men were appointed to this post.

homestall; A farmyard, or a homestead. A word which was used frequently.

husbandman; A farmer. A cultivator of the ground, his land or that of others.

jointure; A Joint tenacy of an estate,—the estate so held.

Land of contention; In southwestern Watertown (now Weston) there was much dissatisfaction among the earliest settlers about the "allotments in the remote meadows — which led to much contention and repeated surveys". In 1649 in "a publique Town Meeting" it was voted to give the seven Selectmen the power to decide the boundaries but "the dissatisfaction and contention continued many years, at least until 1663". It was this state of affairs that gave the name "The Land of Contention" which is found in a great many Weston deeds. The area contained 1102 acres including that covered by water (Nonesuch Pond) and was bounded on the south by Dedham, west by Natick and Sudbury, otherwise by Watertown (now Wellesley, Natick, Wayland and Weston) farm land.

lighterage; The price paid for lightering. Also loading or unloading, or transportation by lighter. A lighter was a large boat or barge.

manumitted; To release from slavery, to liberate from personal bondage. Jonathan Bullard, innholder, who lived on the property which is now Weston High School wrote in his will, "and I do order that my negro slave, Cuffee, shall be manumitted at my Decease and that he shall have a Home, or Habitation allowed and provided by my son Jonathan in my now dwelling House if he desires it." The will is dated May 24, 1773.

messuage; This much used word means a dwelling house with its adjacent buildings.

moidore; A gold coin of Portugal and Brazil having an intrinsic value of $3.27, used until 1735.

moiety; Another much used word, especially with regard to real estate. One of two equal parts, one half.

nail; A measure of length, one sixteenth of a yard or 2¼ inches.

old tenor; Mr. Francis Fullam of Weston made a will on December 12, 1757, in which he provided that each of his three living daughters should receive at his death money in addition to that which they had already received which "makes up about 500 pounds *old tenor*" for each. The Oxford English Dictionary came to our rescue as follows: "The value of a bank note or bill as stated on it; in the phrases, old tenor, middle tenor, new tenor, referring to the successive issues of paper currency in the colonies of Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the 18th century".

pistareen; A debased piece of Spanish money of the early 18th century. Its value was one fifth of the old piece of eight, or dollar.

preservers of deer; Annually appointed town officers in Weston who had control over the enforcement of laws governing the hunting of deer. This office existed from early days until 1791 when Joseph Stone and John Lamson were appointed.

shalloon; A woolen fabric of twill weave used chiefly for linings.

tythingman (tithingman); A Parish officer chosen annually to preserve good order in the church during divine services, to make complaint of disorderly conduct, and to enforce the observance of the Sabbath. In many of his duties he corresponded to the modern constable.

yeoman; A small proprietor who cultivates his own land.

Homer C. Lucas

DATES TO REMEMBER OF IMPORTANT MEETINGS

Saturday, January 18th: Bay State League: See Page 2,

Wednesday, January 22nd: Members' Get-together: Josiah Smith Tavern: 8 P.M., Homer C. Lucas Speaker: See Page 1,

Thursday, April 24th: Annual Charter Anniversary Dinner: Details in our next issue.

A SPECIAL INVITATION TO EVERY FAMILY IN WESTON IF NOT ALREADY A MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY.

The Directors of Weston Historical Society, Brenton H. Dickson 3rd, Donald D. Douglass, Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, Erlund Field, Homer C. Lucas, Edward W. Marshall, Grant M. Palmer, Jr., Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, and Harold G. Travis, have authorized the mailing of this issue of the BULLETIN to every Weston household. If you are already a member,—your continued support is always helpful. If you're a newcomer or have simply neglected to affiliate, we especially invite you to enroll now.

We are involved in every facet and phase of Weston's history. We are dedicated to the preservation and protection of every important landmark of the Town. Our active interest runs up and down every street. Our work involves the students of all our schools and our leadership comes from our fellow citizens, oldtimers and newcomers alike,—each with a contribution to make. As a result, our meetings are stimulating and enjoyable as well as educational. The BULLETIN is issued quarterly and its contents over the years form the nucleus of Weston history. Our activities have led to significant restorations, to the saving of structures, to the adoption by the Town of an Historical Commission, to improved teaching of Weston's history in our schools, to awards for craftsmanship from historical materials, and in all ways the Society has been a great morale builder in developing civic pride through its example, its meetings several times annually, its stimulating programs and get-togethers.

With the advent of the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial, it is our aim to have every Weston citizen a member of our Society. Names of new members and of all regular members will be published with our next issue. Be sure you and all your neighbors are 100% enrolled. Act now by returning this application blank (a fresh copy of The BULLETIN will be mailed to you promptly).

Weston Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

Please accept the enclosed check for $ _____ to cover membership as follows:

Family at $5 per year _____ (Covers children under 21)

Single at $3 per year _____ Life at $200 one-time _____

Name _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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This is the swamp that led 200 years ago "to the house of one Wheaton, in a remote part of the town." (From the Journal of John Howe, British spy.) Story starts on Page 3.

DR. RICHARD HOWARD OF ARNOLD ARBORETUM WILL BE FEATURE SPEAKER AT CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

On Thursday evening April 24th in the commodious hall of St. Peter's Church on the Boston Post Road, Dr. Richard A. Howard who for the past 21 years has been the distinguished director of the Arnold Arboretum, will be the featured speaker at the traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner of the Society. He has selected as the topic of his illustrated lecture "THE HERITAGE THAT THE CASE SISTERS LEFT TO WESTON." Even the oldtimers will learn, we're sure, some new things about the Misses Louisa and Marian Case, our long-time generous benefactors. The story of the Hillcrest Rose, the Hillcrest Gardens School, and the blueberry bushes with their dime-sized diameter berries will be among the many subjects to be covered.

Our guest speaker lives with his family at 137 Wellesley Street and is a member of this Society. He is the author of *999 SURVIVED, SUN, SAND, AND SURVIVAL*, and *DOWN IN THE NORTH*. A graduate of Miami University in Ohio, he subsequently received both his masters and doctor degrees at Harvard. During World War II he served as Captain in the U.S. Airforce, being decorated with the Legion of Merit. Most of all he is recognized as a world authority in the botanical and horticultural world, and we can all look forward eagerly to a most scintillating evening.

Invitations with complete details will be mailed to each member by the first of the coming month, but meanwhile we suggest that you mark on your calendar: *APRIL 24TH: WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER.*

IN MEMORIAM

In the death of Wilmot Whitney on February 3, 1975 this Society suffered a great loss. Former director and a charter life member, "Whit" will always be remembered and honored as a genial and friendly enthusiast in clean sports and in all phases of cooperative, constructive citizenship.

APRIL 19th A HAPPY DAY IN WESTON BICENTENNIAL HISTORY

At 2 p.m., Saturday afternoon, April 19th, Weston's American Legion Post will sponsor the dedication of a plaque that will be unveiled and installed on a boulder that has been placed at the entrance to Lamson Park just west of the Town Hall. It will honor the 103 Weston men who 200 years before, under the leadership of Captain Samuel Lamson assembled when the alarm reached here and joined in driving the British troops back to Boston from Concord and Lexington. Following dedication exercises and an address by Weston's own representative to the General Court, Edward M. Dickson, awards will be presented in the Town Hall to the almost forty divisional winners of prizes in the Bicentennial Arts, Crafts, and History Town-wide contest in which a great many Weston school children and college students are now preparing essays, drawings, paintings, and objects of historical and community significance.

Other features of the day are being developed to make April 19th a memorable and happy occasion for Weston's citizenry as the State and National Bicentennial of the American Revolutionary War is on that day declared to be officially open and underway. Watch the local press for further announcements.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE NOTICE

The next meeting of the Bay State Historical League to which all members of our Society are welcome will be held on Saturday, April 19th, at Fitchburg. Exhibits, addresses, and panel discussions will be available to the visitors who customarily attend these gatherings for sociability, enlightenment, inspiration, and entertainment. If you would like fuller information, call 899-4515 at any time.

AN EDITOR'S DILEMMA

Even more than others, the editor of an historical publication faces the fullest burden of responsibility for *BEING SURE* that what's printed is authentic. Equally must he be aware of the human frailty of jumping to, or conversely, accepting faulty conclusions. Constantly he must insist: "How do you *KNOW*—where is your *PROOF*?" History holds no place for guesswork and that's why the dilemma so often appears. Here's a perfect illustration:

Conscientiously following the Journal printed by Roby of Concord, New Hampshire in 1827 which has widely been accepted as authentic for almost a century and a half, we finished writing *THE SPY THAT HID IN WESTON*. Our next step was to assume our editorial role and write a letter to the William L. Clemens Library of Americana at Ann Arbor, asking: "Would you please be kind enough to let me know whether or not in your very precious original set of General Gage's Papers you have any reference to John Howe, British Spy, or otherwise, so that I'll know at least that there was indeed a person of that name who acted in that capacity during the early days of April 1775?"

As we go to press, the reply of Feb. 10, 1975 reads:

> *"In searching through the Gage calendar to our collection and our card catalogue, I can find no reference to correspondence between Gage and John Howe. In preparation for a bulletin on Lexington and Concord, I recently read through the Gage Papers for 1774-1775 and I do not remember finding any reference to intelligence reports or espionage activities of John Howe. I am sorry to have such negative findings to report, but should we ever come across any references to John Howe, we will certainly let you know."*

(Continued on Page 6)

THE SPY THAT HID IN WESTON

In early April 1775 Thomas Gage faced a great decision. As British governor of Massachusetts and Commander in Chief of British troops in North America, he knew the hour for action had come. So much trouble was brewing he could no longer mark time in Boston. Great stores of supplies and ammunition were daily being assembled at Worcester. Should he strike there before Concord, or after? Though twice as far, the prize was bigger. Last February two of his officers, Brown and DeBerniere, had posed as spies and brought back maps of the countryside. How accurate were they? Had conditions changed? He had to know.

On April 5th he ordered Col. Smith and young John Howe to go to Worcester disguised as countrymen (gray coats, leather breeches, blue mixed stockings with silk flag handkerchiefs around their necks) to examine roads, bridges, fording possibilities, and the best routes. With a stick in one hand and a small bundle tied with a homespun handkerchief in the other, they walked six miles before breakfasting at a tavern in Watertown.*

The waitress startled Col. Smith right away by letting him know that she recognized him as a British officer from Boston with a poor disguise. Once outside, Smith told Howe he'd have to go it alone, and turning over the papers Gage had entrusted to him and ten guineas, he wished 22-year-old Howe the best of luck, promising him a commission if he returned safely to Boston. Howe found the four miles to Waltham Plains good. There he told the tavernkeeper that although a gunsmith by trade, he'd gladly do any kind of farmwork. It was suggested to him that he go to Springfield "where they need help badly as they expect the regulars out from Boston shortly." He had faced his first test alone successfully by calling for "New England and Molasses", favorite drink of the Liberty Men. Turning westward, his Journal reports, he found "roads hilly, stony, and crooked for about 3 miles when I came to a hollow with a narrow causeway over it." This we recognize as Stony Brook, the easternmost edge of Weston. He left the road and went below to see where artillery might cross. Finding no such spot he looked up and saw a negro setting traps. Clutching his middle he asked the man where he could find some sweet flag for his stomach ache. The man said "None of it grows here" but gave him some of his own.

As they walked back to the road, Howe noticed "the largest tree I ever saw." The black man identified it as a buttonwood and said: "We're going to cut it down to stop the regulars from crossing with their cannon. We have men at Cambridge and Charlestown as lookouts." He told Howe that up the road by the meetinghouse he'd find, kept by Joel Smith, "a good tavern and a good Liberty man" while another tavern a half mile further was kept by "Captain Isaac Jones, wicked Tory, where a great many British officers go from Boston." This was John Howe's introduction to Weston, April 5, 1775.

Leaving Stony Brook, he came after a mile to the Josiah Smith Tavern where Joel Smith, son of the founder, presided as Innkeeper. Howe asked two teamsters who were tackling their teams if they knew anyone who "wanted to hire." One of them said hotly: "don't know anyone who'd hire an Englishman." "What makes you think I'm English?" asked Howe. "You look like them rascals we see in Boston" was the reply. Here Howe confides in his Journal, "I wished myself at Captain Jones' but to start off then it would not do, so I walked into the house and called for rum and molasses. One of the men followed me and told the landlord he guessed I was an English spy . . . The landlord questioned me closely. . . . . I told him I was going to Springfield to work at the gunsmith business . . . but should like to work a few days to get money to bear my expenses . . . The landlord told me he believed Captain Jones would hire: I asked him where he lived; he

*The contents of Howe's original Journal were kindly made available to us by the Massachusetts Historical Society, so let us follow each exciting event as it took place during the next seven terrifying and hazardous days. Salient quotations in Howe's own words will brighten the narrative as we proceed —Ed.

said a half a mile above, and kept a tavern at the sign of the golden ball. This seemed to pacify the teamsters. I went on to Capt. Jones'; here I handed him a letter from General Gage. After perusing it he took me by the hand and invited me upstairs." There Howe reported what had happened in the first 14 miles that day. Jones said if he stayed at his tavern it would be mobbed, so after a good dinner, he had his hired man take him to a friend's house that stood until the early 1920's at 221 Ash Street. It was owned by a Nathaniel Wheaton, housewright, who in those parlous times may or may not have been a Tory as far as anyone knew. Certainly he wanted to keep on good terms with everyone, especially a customer such as Jones was. Howe reports being "led into a chamber with a table furnished with a bottle of brandy, candles, paper, etc. Now I went to work to copy from my head on a journal."

This was the only night on his treacherous journey when Howe slept well and undisturbed. The next morning, April 6th, he was aroused by "the good hired man (who) informed me that the news of the conversation at Watertown between Col. Smith and a black woman had reached Capt. Jones by the teamsters you saw at J. Smith's tavern. They insisted there were British spies in the house and by 11 o'clock 30 men had collected. Capt. Jones gave them leave to search the house. . . . then they went into the kitchen and asked the black woman . . . . . she answered they sent them to Jericho swamp . . . about two miles from Jones' tavern."* So late at night, searching the swamp appealed much less to the Vigilantes than the bottle of spirits Captain Jones laid before them, and the night closed with everybody happy!

Admonished by the hired man "lie low until dusk", Howe spent the day indoors writing down "the number of militia, arms, and ammunition sent to me from Mr. Jones. After dinner, Mr. Wheaton introduced his two (10 and 13-year-old:—Ed) daughters to me, stating I was a British officer in disguise. We sat and played cards until tea time. After tea, the ladies retired and I lie down being still very tired and expected company that evening. About 8 the hired man called for me and said he was going with me to Marlborough but . . . we would not go by Capt. Jones' for they were lying in wait for me there; so I bid Mr. Wheaton and his family good bye, and off we set on the back road (today's Wellesley Street-Chestnut Street-Highland Street-Love Lane:—Ed) coming out above Capt. Jones' one mile on the Worcester Road. Here I found the roads good to Sudbury River . . . 20 miles from Boston . . . examined for a fording place providing the bridge should be moved . . . we found one fordable in Framingham, a town opposite from here. We proceeded for Esq. Barnes' in Marlborough . . . found the roads bad . . . traveled all night . . . arrived at the house of Esq. Barnes at 2 on the morning of the 7th . . . squire put his head out the window . . . struck up a light and let us in, I gave him my letter from General Gage, my guide likewise . . . from Capt. Jones. . . he took me by the hand . . . promised to assist . . . set on table a bottle of brandy and some victuals . . . I asked him if he had heard of the affair . . . at Watertown and Weston . . . it was not believed. Here my guide left . . . Esq. said I'd better . . . rest . . . went to bed about 4 . . . slept till 9 then Esq. waked me . . . had been to tavern . . . reported there were 2 men . . . spies examining bridge near house where woman up with sick child saw them . . . told me remain there all day, make out plan of road so far as I had come . . . would go back to tavern to see if any stir . . . would let me know so could be conveyed to swamp . . . furnished with victuals, drink, pen, ink, and paper and the Esq. . . . to the tavern."

At about 4 that afternoon Barnes reported all quiet. Staying indoors till 8, Howe started to Worcester on Barnes' horse. Riding through snowfall at night, he surmounted a long hill just before sunrise and reached the home of a man whose name he omits. The letters he carried from Gage and Barnes gave him the green light. He rested through the daylight hours while getting data on the militia, ammunition stores, etc. After dark his host escorted him to where the stores were, showing him two wells into which flour and ammunition could be thrown. Howe found his host quite confident that the countryside wouldn't make much resistance if attacked. Taking sharp issue, he declared "If General Gage sent 5,000 troops with a train of artillery, they would never one of them get back alive."

*To throw them off the scent, the girl pointed in just the opposite direction! —Ed.

That night at 9, Howe mounted his horse and returned to Barnes' house through bitter cold, fearing imminent capture and vowing to give up spying if he ever reached Boston, 50 miles away. Next morning, April 9th, Barnes served him a hot sling with his breakfast while giving him an uptodate count of all the militia and stores from Worcester to Weston. From a garret window he pointed the best way he could get to Concord that evening across lots, swamps, and roads. Howe prepared to leave at dark, putting his papers into a bundle on the table as they finished a bottle of brandy. Interrupted by a knock at the front door, Barnes whispered for him to flee if he didn't come right back. Howe heard a voice declare "We've come to search for spies" and Barnes answer "I'm willing". He hoisted the window, leaped onto the snow-covered shed and fell flat on his back into the garden below. Picking up bundle and hat, he hurried into the swamp where he paused, and looking back, saw lights dodging at every window.

Fearing his tracks would give him away, he pushed along four miles to a house where he explained to the black man and his wife that he had to get to Concord fast as he expected the regulars from Boston in a few weeks and needed to start making guns at once. The woman hoped he'd make a lot because regulars had already been seen around Esquire Barnes' house the past few days. Howe asked her if Barnes was a Tory and when she nodded, he said he hoped they'd catch and hang him! The man took him to the Concord River post haste, borrowed a friend's canoe, and on reaching the other side, agreed for a half dollar more to take him another mile by a shortcut where they could buy some rum and get some sleep. After sunrise, the guide returned home and the landlord, named Weatherby, accompanied Howe to Concord where he introduced him to Major Buttrick and others as a trained gunsmith. This was welcome news. They hired a shop for him and brought some guns to repair. He worked with such neatness and despatch that they fell right in with his desire to go to his home in Pownalborough for his tools. One man, though, wanted to test him and when Howe gave the name of "Wood", asked him if he knew a "Col. Wood" there. Inwardly quaking, Howe said, offhand, "He's a distant relative." Asked if Col. Wood was a Liberty man, Howe said "Doubtful" whereupon the old man said "You tell him Major Parmenter of Sudbury says 'if you turn Tory he'll seek your life.'" After dinner Howe walked around with the men through the storehouse to examine guns while he snidely inventoried their flour and supplies, and noted where the doors and gates were and how operated. Joining in a final toast of brandy and water, he set off for his tools in Pownalborough!

Halfway to Lexington he stopped at a small house where he fell to ribbing an old man with "Who at your age do you think you're going to shoot with that gun you're polishing?" The man grinned and said "A flock of redcoats soon coming out from Boston will make great targets. I'll fight 'em open field or any ways! I'm 77 and haven't been killed yet!" Importuned by his wife to buy some cake and beer, Howe settled down for a social chat. When they learned his business and his errand, they refused to take any money from him and as a further dividend, he learned that a mile toward Lexington lived a detestable Tory named Gove (just the man he wanted to see)! An hour after sunset he reached Gove's house and was ushered into a private room where he learned that the mob that stormed Barnes' house last night in Marlborough had been outfitted with tar and feathers. Gove provided writing materials for him to bring his Journal up to date, but at 10 o'clock took him to an outhouse to sleep so he wouldn't be discovered if Liberty men got suspicious and searched the house. At daybreak Gove took him back and he waited in the comfortable house all day while Gove made a run around Concord to make sure all was quiet. At 8 that evening, they each mounted a horse and rode without incident to Charlestown where they parted at midnight, Gove returning to Lincoln leading Howe's horse while Howe gleefully crossed over to Boston by ferry and fell into his own bed at 2 A.M.: exactly one long and hectic week after he and Col. Smith had left on their mission of peril.

Turning out at sunrise, he tossed away his Yankee dress, donned his British uniform, and almost immediately encountered Col. Smith on King Street. When Smith said "We heard you broke your neck jumping out of Squire Barnes' window in Marlborough", Howe made no reply. Reaching General Gage's headquarters, Howe handed him his reports. The General passed them to his adjutant without looking at them and, handing Howe a guinea, said: "Take that, John and get some liquor: you're not half drunk enough for officers' company!" "After all I've been through, he treats me like that" must have been in the spy's mind, but he lost no time in carrying out the order. When he reappeared at 11, the General said "John, we have examined your journal—you're well deserving the name of a good soldier, and a lucky and expert spy!" (Not a word about a commission or the expected bonus!) Gage asked: "How large an army will it take to go to Worcester, destroy the stores there, and return safe?" Swiftly Howe told him "If you should march 10,000 regulars and a train of artillery to Worcester which is 50 miles from this place, the roads very crooked, stony, and hilly, and the inhabitants generally determined to be free or die, not one of them will get back alive." At this point when Smith opined "Howe has been scared by the old women", Major Pitcairn quipped "But not by any black woman!"

Finally Gage asked about Concord 18 miles away and was candidly told "500 *mounted* men might get to Concord in the night, destroy the stores and return safe, but to go with 1,000 *on foot* to destroy the stores, the country would be so alarmed that the greater part of them would get killed or taken." "Well, what do you think of our Tories", Gage asked, and Howe bluntly called them "generally cowards" and no dependence could, he felt, be placed in any of them. The General unctuously dismissed him with thanks, commending him on "very good judgment for a beardless lad of 22."

Only in choosing Concord instead of Worcester did Gates a few days later heed the young man's advice. Disregarding the prediction that 1,000 footmen couldn't make it, he sent only 800. Ignoring the opinion that 500 mounted men could do the job at night, he was negligent. By the following September Howe had had enough, joined the Liberty men at Albany, New York, and enlisted in the light dragoons for the duration. Profiting post-war from his early training in the art of deception, he became a successful and wealthy smuggler who despite plenty of aggressive artfulness, never stooped to supply liquor to the Indians with whom he extensively traded. We intend to tell that colorful story at a later date.

Harold G. Travis

AN EDITOR'S DILEMMA *(Continued from Page 2)*

Thus at the "Zero Hour" we take stock. 1st: John Howe is not mentioned in Allen French's "General Gage's Informers", – 2nd: His name does not appear in General Gage's Papers, – 3rd: For years historians have accepted as authentic "The *JOURNAL* kept by *John Howe* while he was employed as a *BRITISH SPY* during the Revolutionary War; Also while he was engaged in the *SMUGGLING BUSINESS* during the last war," and 4th, Since it was first published in 1827 it has twice been reprinted as authoritative.

We resolve the dilemma—"To print now or wait and wait and wait"—by deciding to run *THE SPY THAT HID IN WESTON* now while dutifully acknowledging that we and our readers are aware of the above and that, to our knowledge, no one yet has located the original Journal written in Howe's own hand. We assent to such assertions as "Nobody of Gage's stature would *admit* to spying", or, "The tradition of the spying profession involves secrecy forever.", but we still persist: *"How do you KNOW?"* Such skepticism continues even though as a person, we are prone to believe, despite the fact that nowhere in his meticulous diary does he admit it, that Weston's Samuel Phillips Savage not only moderated and participated in the Boston Tea Party, but actually organized and led it!

So while we and our sleuths everlastingly hunt through records and rosters, here is the story as the printed "JOURNAL" tells it. When and if we find proof that John Howe existed all right, that he did spy as reported, and that the *JOURNAL* as printed was in truth his own, we'll publish the news in the first succeeding issue. And, if in a later time, someone finds it, please for history's sweet sake, make that fact known so that libraries everywhere may close this *Chapter of Doubt* with the triumphant notation: *"CASE PROVED AND CLOSED."*

—The Editor

ARE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ON THIS LIST OF MEMBERS?

IF NOT, WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. AS A SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL OFFER YOUR ANNUAL DUES, PAID NOW, WILL EXTEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO AUGUST 31, 1976.

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Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. MacDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Day Mackintosh, Dr. Robert J. MacMillan, Mrs. Edwin P. Mahard, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Maloney, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen W. Maloney, Mr. and Mrs. William D. Manice, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harry K. Mansfield, Mrs. Mary Lee Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Marshall, Dr. Anita L. Martin, Mrs. Doris H. May, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Maynard, Miss Elizabeth McAuliffe, Mrs. L. B. McConaghy, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. McDonald, Jr., Mrs. Thomas McFarlin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. McIntosh, Mr. and Mrs. Horace B. McGuire, Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. McLeod, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. McLeod, Mr. Charles N. McNutt, Miss Evelyn T. McNutt, Miss Florence E. McNutt, Sister Catharine Mary Meade, Mrs. Stanley H. Melby, Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Merrill, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Messina, Mrs. Horace P. Morton, Mrs. Albert F. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Lovett Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Lucius B. Morse III, Mrs. Kenneth Morrell, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Mountz, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Muldoon, Mrs. Ruth B. Murkland, Mrs. Lawrence A. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Newman, Mrs. Arthur A. Nichols, Mrs. Harold F. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce H. Nickerson, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Nilan, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Noonan, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Norton, Mrs. Amy J. Nychis,

(Continued on back page of supplement)

We are grateful for the steady and generous support of all those fellow citizens who are supporting our work in the preservation of our heritage. We desire to have every Weston family on our rolls: Just fill out, sign, and mail the form below. Family, $5.00 (includes all children under 21). Single $3.00. Life $200.00.

Weston Historical Society, Inc. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

Enclosed is my check for $ _____ to cover the following membership:

Name _____

Address _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1975, Vol. XI, No. 4

NATION'S BICENTENNIAL OPENS IN WESTON

Left: For 5 days preceding the town's opening exercises on April 19th decorations in aisles and classrooms complemented Woodland School's "FREEDOM TRAIL" comprising 34 window displays of which 3 are shown above.

Right: Burned into the 1740-1967 BURGOYNE ELM'S age-rings by Rotary President Bruce Nickerson and son Andrew, are dates revealing how big was its trunk when historic events occurred. Thus will Weston Rotary's Bicentennial Project teach history to oncoming generations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Historic District Study Committee that was appointed last year by the Selectmen on request of the Weston Historical Commission, has announced after thorough study and a series of public meetings, its intention to propose at the forthcoming Town Meeting on May 5th, the establishment of a Weston Historical District. It may be timely, then, to quote the following from our March 1968 BULLETIN (Vol. IV, No. 3):

> *"At its January meeting the Board of Directors voted unanimously to request that the Selectmen insert an article in the warrant of the annual Town meeting March 25th to establish a Weston Historical Commission. All members . . . are urged to attend this meeting and to support the motion that will be presented to establish an Historical Commission as authorized under Section 8D, Chapter 697 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."*

Headed "The Importance of an Historical Commission", the article pointed out that other towns near us had acted much faster than Weston by voting to establish such a Commission: in some cases, Historic Districts as well. The article to establish the Weston Historical Commission was duly passed, and it set as its first order of business the inventory of old structures and sites that had been contemplated.

Several members of this Society worked diligently on that extensive survey, and by last year the Weston Historical Commission asked the Selectmen to appoint an Historic District Study Committee. Thus after seven busy years we have reached the point where the Study Committee it recommended will propose a motion at the coming Town Meeting to establish an Historic District. It is our hope that this proposal, envisioned by us years ago when we instigated the establishment of our Historical Commission, can and will have the active support of every Society member. Your presence and your vote are vital to the establishment of the Weston Historic District.

IN MEMORIAM: HENRY W. LONGFELLOW

The passing of our charter member, Henry W. Longfellow, is deeply regretted by us all. His 1966 framed oil painting of the Burgoyne Elm hangs on the wall of the Isaac Fiske Law Office and symbolizes his devotion to the town and his dedication to the preservation of its natural beauty and charm. Since the 1967 death of the venerable landmark, "Waddie" counselled with us regularly as to the best means of perpetuating the bole. He had an advisory hand right up to the day of his death in the project that Rotary has now completed. His designs so modestly submitted are being treasured with other historic memorabilia of the Society.

THE JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

As we go to press it is obvious that at forthcoming Town hearings and meetings, the fate of Weston's oldest downtown landmark will be extensively discussed. It behooves members of this Society particularly to attend such meetings, to learn all the facts and circumstances, and then to form an opinion that will have been measured by careful study and reflection. This is too sacred and serious a subject for jest or jeer; it calls for prayerful thought, and we have faith in the sober judgment of the people, for after all it is they and not a few who will make the final decision.

Those who remember the Jones sisters will recognize the sincerity in the mind of Alice E. Jones who had written in her will that was filed on January 5, 1948 "I desire to have the house held by the said Society (Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities—Ed.) without material alteration as an historic building in said Town, which served for many years as an old Inn, known at the time of the Revolution as 'Joel Smith Tavern' and in which the Parish and Town meetings were for many years held. I do not desire that the barn connected with this house should be preserved, if in the judgment of said Society it is desirable to remodel or remove said barn. If in the judgment of the said Society interior alterations are desirable to reproduce said building as it was when in use as an inn, such changes and alterations may be made . . . . . After my sister's death I give, devise, bequeath and appoint to the Society . . . all the rest and residue . . . to be held in trust in a separate fund, and the income only to be used for the preservation, maintenance, and display of said house and estate . . . Said premises shall only be mortgaged when deemed desirable by said Society for expenditures of a capital nature only . . . . . shall never be sold or conveyed by the said Society as long as the house remains . . ."

The above condensed portions extracted from Alice's will are submitted only for basic reflection. Those interested in going more into detail should be able to secure access to all documents from town officials.

REGIONAL PRESERVATION WORKSHOP HELD HERE

Not all of our members realize that Mrs. George F. Amadon ("Betty") is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. She and her husband, charter members of the Weston Historical Society, reside at 465 South Avenue in what is known as the Isaac Train Tavern, ca. 1799. On March 22nd, Mrs. Amadon presided over an Eastern Regional Preservation Workshop that was held in the Josiah Smith Tavern. During the noon recess, we were honored at our Isaac Fiske Law Office headquarters by visitors from several neighboring communities. All were impressed with the authenticity of the restoration we undertook during the late years of the last decade.

PAINFUL RETURNS

With people moving from one address to another, it perhaps is inevitable that occasionally the mover fails to notify us of the new address. Hence many copies of the BULLETIN and of similar mailings are returned to us and we are frustrated because those parties do not receive our message. With such a large mailing list, we use the economical "non-profit organization" method, so all we ask is that if you move, even from one Weston address to another, please notify us at once, as letters and periodicals other than first class are *not* forwarded.

THE BICENTENNIAL IS HERE!

During the week preceding the Nineteenth of April and the advent of our nation's Bicentennial Commemoration of the American Revolutionary War, downtown Weston was filled with quiet excitement. Adding to expectancy was the knowledge that the annual spring vacation of our schools was to start on the same day.

The Historical Society brought a display case from the Isaac Fiske Law Office, plus pictures, papers, documents, and various other historic relics to the Town's popular public library. Merchants started to tidy up their windows, some providing an historical motif. Town employees cleaned up their own quarters and went out into the highways and byways to spruce up cemeteries, parks, school grounds, and roadsides so that Weston's traditional reputation for neatness and natural charm would be reasserted. Outdated signs came out of Bulletin Boards and from the few shop windows that had allowed such to be placed there. Private citizens in various neighborhoods caught the contagion of clearing up fallen branches, dead limbs, and anything else that spoiled the view from streetside. Even the earliest species of daffodils in the sunken garden of oldfashioned bulbs that border the rear lawn of the Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office burst into full bloom on the Saturday for which we had expectantly waited.

A last minute check-up showed that the handsome plaque memorializing Captain Lamson's men who marched with him to Lexington was installed and ready for the morrow's unveiling on the 200th anniversary of that event. Weston Post #214, American Legion, were to sponsor the dedication and reported "We are ready." Over the years in many BULLETINS we had expressed the wish and hope that somehow sometime but soon someone would find a way of preserving and immortalizing the venerable Burgoyne Elm that died in 1967 at the age of 225 years. To our delight, Weston Rotarians under the inspired and inspiring leadership of its president, brought this notable preservation project to its climax on the very eve of the 19th.

An unwelcome gale with showers swept over the Town minutes before dedication of the Lamson boulder's plaque was to take place. On the spur of the moment it was decided that while the dedication had to go on as planned, most of the exercises scheduled for the grove at the entrance to Lamson Park would be held in the Town Hall. While most of the large crowd watched under umbrellas from the Town Hall steps, a Boy and Girl Scout unveiled the plaque, and Rev. Paul E. Shanabrook delivered a prayer of dedication. The rest of the dedicatory exercises took place smoothly in the comfortably crowded Town Hall, and the Bicentennial, so long anticipated, was at last under way with a special section of the Weston High School Band under the direction of Scott Tucker leading the audience in our national anthem.

Declaring the Bicentennial now officially opened, Harold G. Travis of the Weston Bicentennial Committee outlined projects sponsored, completed, and planned to date by civic groups. The Weston Tea Party of last year by the Golden Ball Tavernkeepers had warmed up the Town ahead of time. The Community League has started its extensive renovation of the Josiah Smith Tavern's Barn without affecting its exterior. The children of the Junior High School undertook with Town help the planting last year of many young maples leading up to the Sugar House. The Tree Warden is pruning and feeding those Bicentennial Buttonwoods described in our January issue, Vol. XI, No. 2. The garden clubs are most active. The Weston Garden Council with the Community League Garden Club is completing the plantings around the new police station. The Country Garden Club's tree and shrub planting around the Golden Ball Tavern continues. The Weston Garden Club coordinated with the Town in building a cobblestone safety island around the watering trough that traditionally has been appropriately planted for years by that group, three seasons out of four. The same Weston Garden Club in cooperation with Community League Garden Club is planning the placing of many buckets in public places around the town with suitable plantings in each. The Provisional Group of the Weston Garden Club is undertaking the landscaping of the Weston Scout House Grounds. Even as far away as Saturday, June 12, 1976, when through the generosity of Mr. Richard Robinson a plaque will be dedicated on Sanderson Hill to commemorate the WESTON BEACON of Revolutionary War Days, Weston Boosters has agreed to sponsor a townwide

FAMILY DAY when from morning till far into the night, the people of Weston will join in all sorts of activities that will occupy every playground and culminate in an outdoor BEAN SUPPER at Regis College, followed by square dances. Breathless, Mr. Travis then turned the meeting over to Mr. Harry B. Jones, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee of the Legion's Weston Post. After recognizing descendants of the Weston Revolutionary War heroes in the one person, it turned out, of Representative Edward M. Dickson, Mr. Jones introduced Harold Hestnes, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen who fittingly brought the greetings of the Town. The popular Carondeliers of Regis College sang AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL, and the Honorable Edward Mellen Dickson, Representative of the General Court and former Town official, delivered the oration of the day. At the close of his address he presented a scroll each to the Selectmen and to the Bicentennial Committee, signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State, and himself in honor of the occasion. The Dedication Exercises concluded with the singing of AMERICA by the audience, accompanied by the excellent band.

At this point, Donald D. Douglass, Chairman of the Weston Bicentennial Committee opened the second half of the program by presenting Dr. Vera Laska of the Committee and Mr. Donald Kennedy, Program Director, Weston Public Schools as co-chairmen of the Townwide School and College Competition in four sections of the Literary and the Arts and Crafts divisions. Altogether 245 entries were received from 255 students. Each of 38 winners was called to the front to receive a certificate of award, a handsome prize of permanent value, and the Bicentennial Committee's congratulations. Between awards the CARONDELIERS delighted the throng with medleys of old folksongs. The affair was adjudged to have been an outstanding success and loud applause greeted the announcement that another contest will be arranged for 1976.

EN ROUTE TO POSTERITY

On February 18th, Tree Warden Koelb's sharp saw cut the Burgoyne Elm's bole down to the height desired, and the town's "front loader" conveyed the severed portion to its secret hiding place where, protected with a preservative, it will be kept ready to supply in the 21st century a replacement slab for that shown on page one.

VITAL STATISTICS NOT INFALLIBLE

One must not too hastily jump to conclusions that are based on published statistics, for "There's many a slip." According to Bond's HISTORY OF WATERTOWN, Samuel Barnes and Grace Warren were married July 10, 1775 and their first child Samuel was born on August 26, 1775, the first of eight children. Strangely enough, the last two were born 33 days apart; Rebecca on September 27, 1792 and Lydia October 30, 1792. Errors of all sorts can be found in the best of family records.

A SALUTE TO THE SCHOOLCHILDREN OF WESTON FUTURE LEADERS OF AMERICA

We proudly salute the young people of Weston who have brought to our Bicentennial a renewed perspective for us all. Winston Churchill often reminded us that the farther backward we can look, the farther forward we are likely to see. The 245 entries that were submitted in the Townwide Literary and Arts and Crafts Contest, and the FREEDOM TRAIL that was created by the students of our Woodland School have set a high standard for us all. Illustrated elsewhere is a sampling of the 34 window display that comprised THE FREEDOM TRAIL but no picture can reveal the excellence of the pagaents that were portrayed by the pupils themselves. The amount of time and effort that went into the preparation of all the exhibits and costumes plus the extensive training required for the perfection of the three pagaent performances reflect great credit upon teachers, pupils, and parents alike. We can be sure that this nation of ours, under God, must now have, as it has needed to have for so long, a new birth of freedom. Our system of government has proved itself the best in the world but it must and will be better because of the new vows our children inspire us to make with them while we take stock of our opportunities and responsibilities as citizens of the United States of America.

WE WELCOME MANY NEW MEMBERS

Since our January BULLETIN, the following new members have united with us to promote and preserve Weston's history as an exceptional New England Town: Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Anderson, Dr. and Mrs. W. Gerald Austen, Dr. and Mrs. Carl C. Bartels, Dr. and Mrs. Glenn E. Behringer, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Billings, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bonner, Dr. and Mrs. Harry E. Braconier, Mrs. M. Holt Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Casey, Mrs. Jean Stevenson Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Frederic A. Crafts, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Arnold H. Crowley, Mr. Daniel H. Crowley, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Daitch, Dr. and Mrs. G. Robert DeLong, Mrs. June Rutherford Dussault, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Ecker, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley H. Eldred, Mr. and Mrs. Allan B. Ellis, Dr. and Mrs. Edward R. Epp, Mrs. Albert P. Everts, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Fenn, Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Field, Mr. and Mrs. Weston P. Figgins, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Fisher, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. W. Brownell Freeman, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Gerstein, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Green, Mr. and Mrs. Philip B. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Hardie, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph L. Helgeson, Jr., Mrs. Dexter B. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. D. Brainerd Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Howes, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Jobes, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer O. Jolley, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Elmer R. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Katz, Mrs. Janeth L. Knowles, Mr. Frank Batchelder Lamson, Mr. Roger Wright Lamson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. G. Raymond Lehrer, Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Littlefield, Mrs. Addison H. Lowell, Mrs. Heinz Mangendantz, Mrs. Edwin P. Mahard, Mr. and Mrs. Bayley F. Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Newbury, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Newell, Mr. and Mrs. George E. Oppel, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brooks Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Perrine, Mr. and Mrs. Camille F. Petri, Mr. and Mrs. David O. Pfaelzer, Mrs. M. Allen Powning, Dr. and Mrs. Douglas N. Riis, Nellie H. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Rooney, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Schore, Dr. and Mrs. Harold F. Schuknecht, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin F. Smith, David K. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Roger E. Spear, Mr. and Mrs. M. Thomas Stantial, Mrs. Reginald W. Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Studley, II, Mrs. Joseph L. Supple, Dr. and Mrs. Fred W. Thyng, Mr. Dana E. Vannasse, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Westell, Mr. and Mrs. William R. Whitmore, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Wiseman, Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Wrenn, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John J. Yeonopolus, and Dr. and Mrs. Hugh H. Young II.

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER A GREAT SUCCESS

Dr. Richard Howard's illustrated talk on the Case Sisters of Weston in the cozy candle-lit dining hall of St. Peter's Church on April 24th was immensely enjoyed by the largest turnout in years. Philip Coburn's Hillcrest song of 1912 boyhood days, "We are the Farm Boys of Weston!" sung by some of the oldtimers, closed the meeting on an hilarious note.

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LAST CALL

"BARGAIN BONANZA" BENEFIT

For

YOUR DONATIONS

Call NOW for Pick-Up Service Verna E. Douglass

237-6497

or

Bring to: 30 Corwood Drive, Weston

All Items

in

Saleable Condition: No Clothing

TOWN HALL MAY 9-10

9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

SNACK BAR HOURLY RAFFLES

OTHER COMING EVENTS

To Mark On Your Calendar

May 15: Open House: Isaac Fiske Law Office

November 11: Annual Meeting and Illustrated Knox Trail Lecture.

Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8 per family

Life Memberships $200

Gift Memberships are suggested

Contributions to the Society are always welcome.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.

and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

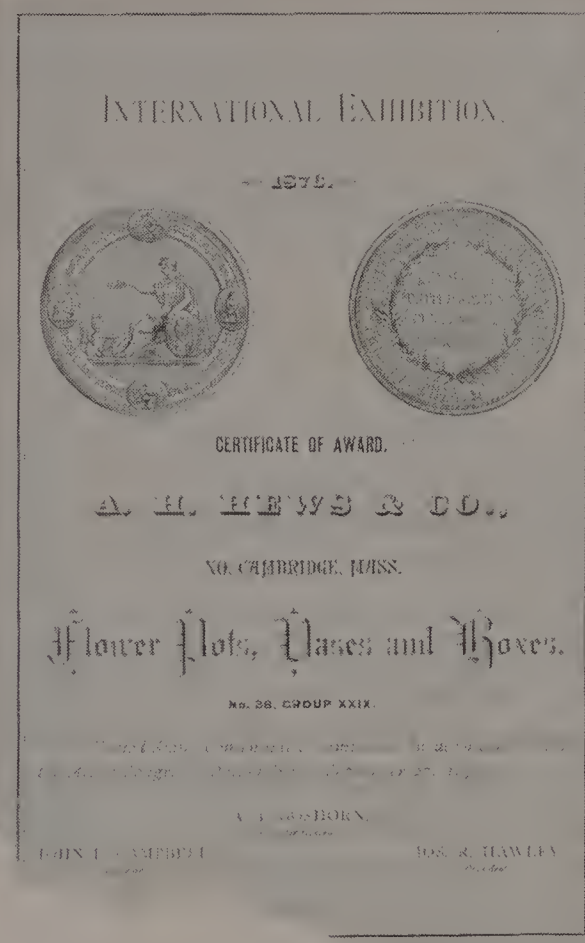
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388

Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1975, Vol. XII, No. 1



Featured frontispiece page (above right) of The A. H. Hews & Co. 1878 catalogue was the award for excellence it had received 2 years before from the United States Centennial Commission at the International Exposition held in Philadelphia. (Catalogue's front cover appears at left. Story on Page 4.)

ANNUAL MEETING NOVEMBER 11TH

The annual meeting of the Society will convene in the Ball Room of The Josiah Smith Tavern on Tuesday evening, November 11th, at 8 o'clock. The President's annual report, accompanied by those from special committees, will precede the report of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Samuel J. McDonald, and the election of new directors. The names of dedicated members with diversified background, experience, and age will be welcomed by the Nominating Committee, so do not hesitate to suggest your candidate by calling its chairman at 894-1423. We are a democratic organization with townwide membership and responsibility. The combined skills and talents of our vast membership represent a potential that should be mobilized for the Bicentennial and years ahead.

Following the business meeting, the new and popular *KNOX TRAIL SLIDE SHOW* will be presented in color and sound. It will cover the journey of Henry Knox from Ticonderoga to Cambridge through Framingham, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown, and it will give us all some idea of what to expect next January 25th when the reenactment troupe, now in the process of selection, is expected to encamp overnight in our Town, "weather or no." A separate article describes tentative plans for accommodating our expected hardy visitors as our part in the memorable trek that will bring back events of two centuries ago.

After the showing, a social hour will follow when members, old and new, will get to know each other better. Light refreshments will be served by the hospitality committee.

"ONCE UPON A PUNG"
SOCIETY TO PUBLISH SECOND EDITION

It has just been announced that author Brenton H. Dickson and publisher Harold G. Travis have assigned to the Weston Historical Society all copyrights and privileges to the popular book they brought out for the "I REMEMBER WHEN" Committee in 1963 when the Town commemorated the 250th anniversary of its incorporation. The gift includes profits made on the first edition of 2,000 copies, such sum being assigned to the Society's Endowment Fund by vote of the Directors. It also includes 1,000 unbound copies. In addition, the donors have supplied an Errata page for insertion in a second edition of 250 copies that the Directors have ordered to have bound and ready for sale this fall, hopefully by the time of our annual meeting, surely by Christmas. For the benefit of those who already own copies of the first edition, the forthcoming ERRATA page is enclosed in this issue of the BULLETIN with our compliments. In making this gift, the donors have stipulated only that all profits are to be put into the permanent Endowment Fund of the Society whose income only is ever to be used. As soon as the second edition is sold, the Directors plan to have a third edition produced from the remaining unbound copies.

KNOX TRAIL REENACTMENT TROUPE
DUE TO REACH WESTON NEXT JANUARY 25TH

The Knox Trail Historical Society, Inc. announces that the Massachusetts portion of the "Reenactment" will take place during next January under whatever varying weather conditions may be encountered. Beginning January 15th in the western town of Alford, the troupe is due to reach Cambridge on Tuesday the 27th, – cannon, 26 horses, and about 30 men. Applications for participation are being received at the Society's headquarters in Boston. Fuller information as to requirements for qualification may be obtained by writing Susan E. Schruth, president, at P. O. Box 1364, Boston, Mass. 02104. Weston's representative on the Advisory Board, is Harold G. Travis at 899-4515. Emphasis will be placed on excellent physical condition as attested by your doctor, experience in outdoor activities, interest and/or hobbies related to the trek's activities, and a dedicated desire to be part of so significant a program.

The Knox Trail Historical Society, Inc., and the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission are in need of equipment for the Reenactment. Loan of such should be for the life of the Massachusetts portion from January 9th through the 27th. Certain pieces may be needed for subsequent ceremonies March 1-4 and 17th in Boston. While we have not yet been specifically approached for feeding and housing overnight, we anticipate that the opportunity very likely will be presented to our members and other townspeople to offer hospitality to the brave Reenacters. As soon as notice is officially received of the Troupe's official needs and desires for Sunday night, January 27th, our local Bicentennial Committee will make such information available to all.

Already the puppet show, HARD KNOX, has twice delighted Weston groups,—at Woodland School audience last May and at the local library during the summer,—a statewide banner contest among grammar school children is tentatively being planned, and the SLIDE SHOW at our November 11th annual meeting will set the stage for the Reenactment Troup's overnight stopover on Sunday, January 25th.

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last issue, our hearts have been saddened by the deaths of fellow charter members Charles R. ("Mike") Ball, Mrs. Mortimer T. (Ruth) Farley, James B. ("Jim") Greason, Jr. and of Walter E. Robb, affable and dynamic husband of fellow member, Betty Robb. All four of them gave much of themselves to the town we all love, and their absences will be sorely missed for many years to come. These losses, added to those occasioned by removals to other parts of the country, impose upon new members and those of us who are left, the responsibility, yea the opportunity, to work just that much harder in the fields that they served, so that there'll always be a Weston unexcelled in the cohesive spirit of its people.

THE HEWS POTTERY: A PROGRESS REPORT

"Seek and ye shall find", instructs the Bible. It also advises us to "ask" and to "knock." Since my article in last October's BULLETIN on the Hews Account Book, "seeking" and "asking" has produced some results I wish to share briefly with you.

The most distant communication came from a non-resident member in New Hampshire who remembered as a child growing up in Weston, that a large garden urn on a pedestal, given in the 19th century by Mr. Hews to her grandmother, Mrs. Knox, stood for many years filled with pansies in front of their house at 334 Boston Post Road, known until recently as "The Teachers' Lodge." It was terra cotta in color and resembled the Weston watering trough in shape. If any member knows the whereabouts of this Victorian urn, possibly now painted white or black, please let me hear from you.

Products of the 19th century phase of Hews Pottery, especially after the move to Cambridge, are without doubt easier to find than earlier wares, but these should be regarded as equally important to the total history. The Society owns several examples of the mass-produced flower pots, but even these are of great significance because the flat collared and completely stackable pot, as we know it today, was introduced by Hews in 1890. Several members have reported examples of the earlier un-collared types. I have appointments to examine jardinieres, hanging baskets, and other odd pieces suspected of being Cambridge-period Hews.

The A. H. Hews Company went out of business in the 1960's. Fortunately the Hews firm issued catalogues of their popular North Cambridge wares during their most productive years. These catalogues are, of course, exceedingly rare but your indefatigable Editor, Mr. Travis, has obtained as a gift to the Society from Mr. Dunbar Lockwood Jr., son of the last owner, Xerox copies of four of these catalogues of the 1870 and 1880 decades. These will be of immense value in the identification of utilitarian and art pottery products of the Cambridge phase. The illustration herein shows the frontispiece to the 1878 catalogue just after our nation's Centennial Celebration. Concerning the earlier wares produced in Weston, I've found that the date of 1765 for the beginning of the pottery by Abraham Hews, Sr. is even more unreliable than I thought last year when I first questioned it. The account book entry dated April 19, 1765 quoted on Page 43 of *Centenary Firms of the United States* as proof of date of establishment, turns out to be identical to the entry made on April 19, 1774 on the inside cover of the Hews Account Book as I quoted last fall. The pottery was obviously active in 1774, but how much before that date it came into being still has to be proved.

It was interesting also to discover that a Mr. William Brandon who attended the Winterthur Ceramic Conference in 1972 at which I spoke, had done a private "dig" on the former Abraham Hews, Jr. Boston Post Road property. Important to Hews research was the finding of kiln "furniture", including a saggar which is a fired clay box used for protecting delicate pieces of pottery from direct heat in the kiln. Although not found in or even near any kiln site on the property, it is reasonable to suppose that this had a Hews origin. Mr. Brandon has offered to give some of the sherds to the Society for furtherance of our record project, and we are grateful.

Their acquisition is significant because in past years many Hews sherds have been dug up by recent landowners and amateur archaeologists, but instead of being recorded, they were discarded or retained for personal reasons, and usually removed from this area. The result is a confused scattering of valuable clues. Hews Pottery history is a vital part of Weston History and as such, should be recognized as larger than individual interests.

Seeking and *asking* has produced results this past year, so I shall try *knocking* as well in the future. If you have not already written or phoned me about the sherds or whole pieces in *your* possession that need to be recorded, please do so and I shall contact you promptly.

Barbara Gorely Teller
115 Brooks Street
Wellesley, Mass. 02181
Phone 235-8532

AFTERMATH OF A MURDER

71 years ago,—March 31, 1904 to be exact, little "Ros" Bennett walked westward toward 196 South Avenue from her home on the knoll up the road. She planned to visit her close friend Amy Roberts, the fortyish housekeeper at the home of the Pages,—the recent widower, Mr. Page, his son and daughter. Still very much alive and young, "Ros" goes back far in memory. A life-long resident of South Avenue and a charter member of our Society, she is now Mrs. David M. Little. She recalls how Amy taught her the art of making cookies. Perhaps on that afternoon so many years ago she was hoping to have a batch of cookies on hand when she and her friends would get together on the morrow for April Fools Day pranks and fun. Surely she did not dream of the excitement and tragedy that were waiting for her, but as she approached the attractive white house with its green shutters, she wondered "Whose horse is tethered outside and why are all those men running around?"

With shocking suddenness she learned that Mabel Page had been found lying dead on her bedroom floor in front of the mirror. Why would such a grand girl commit suicide, as somebody whispered, when she was always so happy? Could she have been murdered? Nobody knew and nobody should touch a thing until the police arrived. It was at that point that "Ros Bennett" came up to the door, and as her family had the only phone in the neighborhood, she recalls that she was "rushed back with the report." Weston's first and recently appointed Police Chief Darius B. Vittum and his assistant, P. J. McAuliffe, were quickly on the scene. Alertly this same Pat McAuliffe, later beloved Police Chief and shortly one of the recipients of the reward, went into action. (Pat's daughter Elizabeth, one of our charter members also, now resides on North Avenue in Weston.)

As we talked during the BARGAIN BONANZA in the Town Hall last May, Mrs. Little spoke affectionately of old "Pat", calling him "the grand mogul of the town,—liveryman, fireman, chief of Police, dog catcher, measurer of lumber, and what else! What fun it was to watch his pair of horses being unhitched from the firetruck, slapped on the rumps, and sent back alone down Church Street to the old stable that still stands by the railroad station." (See ONCE UPON A PUNG, Pages 11, 13, 16, 17, 18, 27, 50, 52, and 79.)

Among the books in the library of the Society's headquarters in the 1805 Fiske Law Office at 626 Boston Post Road are two large volumes that contain all the testimony of the long drawn-out trial that led finally to the conviction and execution of one Charles Tucker, an Auburndale lad of poor repute.

Mrs. Little treasures many notes left by her father, Samuel C. Bennett, longtime distinguished Dean of the Boston University School of Law and constantly one of the guiding beacons and capable public servants of our Town. One entry reads: "Mabel Page was murdered March 31, 1904 – age 41 years 3 mo.s, 17 days. She was born in Boston." Another is the rough draft he wrote for the petition to offer a reward of $500 "for the detection of one who has committed a felony."

Publicity was nationwide and Weston's name was on Page One of papers from coast to coast day after day. Such notoriety so distressed and annoyed Amy Roberts that, we learned from Mrs. Little, she had her name changed to *EMMA MOTT*, moved quietly to Cambridge, and worked for many years thereafter as housekeeper in the home of Dr. Swan where Mrs. Little and her brother, Samuel C. Bennett Jr., frequently visited her to keep up the old ties. If Charlie Tucker was in fact the murderer of Mabel Page, why is he not equally accountable for the death in name of Amy Roberts and for the subsequent masquerade of Emma Mott?

Harold G. Travis

ONCE UPON A PUNG

ERRATA and CORRECTIONS

Page 1	Line 8	Mr. Andren
3	14	Built in the 19th century
10	30	April 12, 1904
12	12	22 Church Street
12	14	36 Church Street
20	25	270 Boston Post Road
21	33	Alonzo Fiske
25	9	Change Susan to Suzanne
25	24	10 Pigeon Hill Road
29	17	There were several owners between Sanderson and Schwartz.
30	27	Emerson, the owner, had also increased his insurance a short time before the fire on Nov. 6, 1902.
31	22	Sumner Paine
31	30	293 Boston Post Road
41	26	Weston Blake
47	7	The "Yankee", leaving Boston at noon, and bound for New York City via Springfield.
53	7	Change 1914 to 1913
55	7	Change 'whence' to 'to which'
63	30-31	No authentication. Sumner Viles was going to show it to us but he died and the secret of its whereabouts died with him.
64	28	Probably operated between 1881 and 1900
65	30	The main house with Victorian alterations has been torn down. A portion of the original wing is still standing.
66	12	The last paragraph is all untrue. Garfield never lived in Weston nor did his father and grandfather. The statement stems from a local history and turns out to be a misinterpretation of facts. See Weston Hist. Soc. Bull. Jan. 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 2.
70	28	This house was razed when recent additions were made to the First Parish Church.
80	3	Hannah Gowing was ten years old at the time. She died in 1870 aged 95 years 8 months. Any stories about her and her pet skunks are from hearsay rather than memory.

B. H. D. Oct. 1975

GARDEN VASE AND PEDESTAL.

No. 38.

No. 39.

There being a great variety of vases in the market, we can offer but two particular advantages of this over any other kind of Garden Vase. Plants thrive better in Earthen than any other material. It makes a very superior vase for Parlor use during the Winter, being much lighter to handle than iron or stone. Size, Vase 23-inches high, 16-inches diameter. Pedestal, 21-inches high, 14-inches diameter

Electrotypes for Nos. 38 and 39 united, $1.60, post paid.

A. H. Hews & Co, North Cambridge, Mass. 17

Window Boxes and Domestic Wares

SPITTOON.

No. 20. Parlor Spittoon. Finished variety of colors.

No. 22. Cuspadore. Finished in Vermillion, Green and Maroon.

No. 20.

NEW PATTERN WINDOW BOX.
Very Attractive.

No. 21.

CUSPADORE.

No. 22.

CROCUS POTS.
Finished in imitation of Rough Stone, Scotch and White Granite.

No. 23.

LOG HANGING POT.

No. 24.

No. 24 may be used as a Hanging Pot or Window Box, the Base, or Sancer being separate from the Log. Furnished in three sizes—9, 12 and 15 inches.

WINDOW BOX, 15 INCHES LONG.

Electrotypes of Nos. 21, 24, 25—65 cent, post paid.

Electrotypes of Nos, 20, 22, 23, at 50 cents each, post paid

No. 25.

Two of the two dozen illustrated pages from the Hews' 1878 catalogue.

ANOTHER ACQUISITION

More times than not, visitors to our headquarters, the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office at 626 Boston Post Road, have been heard to exclaim "Tiny, but what a gem!" From this time on, such praise will be magnified because of the corner cupboard that our fellow member, Howard M. Forbes, has made and installed at our request, in the southeast corner of the meeting room downstairs, looking out over the oldfashioned bulb garden to the natural swale that abuts Linwood Avenue all the way to the By-pass "where the race of men go by." Made of old pine, it looks, in the words of a recent visitor, "as though it had always been there."

We urge you to see it for yourself, for we would welcome donation or loan of appropriate old china pieces such as teapots, plates, platters, cups and saucers, etc. to adorn its shelves. Just phone either Mrs. Travis 899-4515 or Mrs. Lucas 899-2133 and see what can be worked out to add further charm and grace to our cozy little home. We suggest that all the while each member begin to suggest more ways of utilizing this historic building of limited, selective capacity in order to further the work of the Society. It's a quiet place, full of charm inside and outside, rich in history, abundant in the potential wealth on its bookshelves, peaceful in its setting with a prospect "out back" which, though in the heart of things, is miles away from the roar and tear of 20th century living. For small study and/or discussion groups and exhibits, or for uninterrupted research and writing, it is truly an unsuspected boon. Suggestions to the above ladies will receive sympathetic and appreciative response.

NEW MEMBERS

We take pleasure in welcoming into our membership Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Combs of 76 Westland Avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Herrick of 190 Summer Street, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Lawson of 31 Montvale Road, Mr. and Mrs. Lee E. Munson, 85 Newton Street, and the Francis B. Shepherds of Yonkers, New York.

AN EDITOR'S APPEAL

For a dozen years the BULLETIN faithfully has ground out story after story that was dug out of Weston's hitherto untapped mine of history. We have been able from time to time to get spectacular help from a few members who have voluntarily submitted, or prolifically responded to our requests for, articles on specific subjects that have added to our general knowledge of Weston's unlimited lore. We have been disappointed, nevertheless, with compositely the relatively *small percentage* of our vast and talented membership that has been passive and has submitted nothing. We realize that all of us do not have the gift of writing, but each of us nevertheless has talents that would add to the cause. Here then, is a thought for you who think you "can't write!" —How about setting that pragmatic, practical mind of yours onto compiling an index of the many subjects that have been covered in BULLETIN issues of these past dozen years?

It's a far and challenging cry from the creative literary world of writing and word expression to one that's closer to computers, but both are vital. All of us, and future historians, would welcome a comprehensive index. Who'll tackle it? Phone the Editor, 899-4515.

BARGAIN BONANZA: AN ALL-ROUND SUCCESS!

The magnificent profit of $2,400 that resulted from last May 9th and 10th's *BARGAIN BONANZA* in the Town Hall was only a part of the great benefits that accrued from contributions in articles and services by literally hundreds of our members, their families, and friends. Important and vital as money is, it alone would be insignificant if not accompanied by that contagious and inspiring spirit of togetherness and cooperation that characterized the tremendous undertaking which was chairmanned and directed by our fellow charter member, Mrs. Donald D. Douglass. She in turn wants us to express sincere appreciation to her dozens of aides and their assistants who worked so enthusiastically and energetically, and we hereby propose a toast of "Well Done!" to you all. At its next meeting the Board of Directors will decide on the useful purposes to which the large sum raised will be allocated. Some will undoubtedly go into the permanent Endowment Fund which has almost $4,000 to go to reach our immediate objective, while other amounts no doubt can be productively delegated to current Bicentennial or other projects of merit. Phone your suggestions to any officer or director.

Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8 per family

Life Memberships $200

Gift Memberships are suggested

Contributions to the Society are always welcome.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.

and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388

Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Extra copies are available for 25¢ each. Please contact Mrs. Frederick D. Bonner 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1976, Vol. XII, No. 2

JOSIAH SMITH'S BICENTENNIAL BARN HOLDS "OPEN HOUSE" AS OLDTIMER EXAMINES UNLOCKED STALL.

AN APPRECIATION

The 18th Century smell of grain and hay, harness and horses, is gone,—supplanted by the clean atmosphere of a modern living room. Josiah Smith, his son Joel, and their Liberty men patrons would be grateful. The Women's Community League of Weston deserves the thanks of us all for the remarkably authentic project of renovation, restoration, and preservation it conceived and accomplished on the barn of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern as its contribution to the Town's commemoration of the American Revolutionary War Bicentennial. To be appreciated it must be seen firsthand, for only then can one feel the degree of skill, care, and yes "love" that went into the costly undertaking which in one bold stroke maintained the true character of the old in the undisturbed stalls and hand-hewn beams while still providing the efficiency, comfort, and convenience of modern plumbing and wall-to-wall carpet. It houses the League's Clothing Exchange, and provides a comfortable meeting place for community groups.

Congratulations ladies on an imaginative, ingenious, and inspiring accomplishment! In your motif we detect that same respect and reverence that characterized last year's Weston Rotary Bicentennial project on the bole of the 1740-1967 Burgoyne Elm just half a mile westward on the Boston Post Road. Again westward by another half mile we equally treasure the 1768 Golden Ball Tavern around whose "liberation" and preservation have the people of Weston and beyond so generously and wholesomely rallied.

In this year of our country's Bicentennial it is well to observe that few other villages, towns, or cities can more fittingly mark and exemplify the truly democratic character of America. Here within a mile on the same historic road stand landmarks distinctively different in the sense that one tavern welcomed and harbored Liberty men and the other was known to be a friendly Tory habitat while halfway between them on October 17, 1777 were quartered under a stately elm the captured (mostly Hessian) soldiers of British General Burgoyne. Today we rejoice that we live in a town and nation where liberty and justice for all, regardless of race, color, or creed will forever keep us strong.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with the deepest sense of civic and personal loss that we record the passing of one of our oldest charter members, Mrs. Charles O. Richardson, who with her late husband, chairman of Weston's Bicentennial Celebration in 1913, was a constant and generous supporter of our heritage.

NEXT MEETING FEATURES HEWS POTTERY

On Tuesday evening, January 13th, at 8 P.M. in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Society will be privileged to have as its guest, Mr. William T. Brandon of Boxboro who, as mentioned by Mrs. Teller in our last issue, conducted a private "dig" in 1973 on the Boston Post Road former Abraham Hews, Jr. property. As stated in that article, he plans to present to our Society some of the sherds he unearthed here. These should be helpful in the research on records which she has been discussing. His talk will be illustrated with slides and his topic is "Recent Research on Hews Pottery." Refreshments will follow what we're certain can be a most interesting and enlightening discussion. On hand for inspection will be the Xerox copies from the Society's archives of the century-old catalogue which was described also in our last issue. Come and learn more about pottery on Tuesday evening, January 13th at 8 in the Josiah Smith Tavern.

SOCIETY HOSTS KNOX TRAIL RECEPTION JANUARY 25TH AFTER MACKENZIE BICENTENNIAL PIANO RECITAL

Sunday afternoon, January 25th, holds two successive events that deserve the fullest support of our members as part of the Bicentennial program. At 2 P.M. in the High School Auditorium, Weston's own Arthur Mackenzie, whose keyboard talent the New York Times calls "major" and whom the Music Journal brands "A major Artist", will play selections from Beethoven, Chopin, Czerny, Gottschalk, Gershwin, Joplin, and Benjamin Franklin. It will duplicate a similar concert of the previous Thursday evening, January 22nd, in the same place. The proceeds from both performances are designed to cover expenses of the all-family day being planned for June 12th by our Weston Bicentennial Committee with cooperation of Weston Boosters, Inc. and practically every other civic organization of the community. If unable to attend either the January 22nd or 25th concert, your sponsorship in the form of contributions will be most worthwhile. Tickets may be purchased at either drugstore, at "Triple A", and the Newton-Waltham Bank and Trust Company (adults $5, students $2.50).

On or about five o'clock, the sound of horses and wagon along the Post Road will herald the approach from Ticonderoga of some 35 rugged men with 16 sturdy steeds as they re-enact the hauling of cannon to General Washington in Cambridge exactly 200 years before. They will be welcomed by the Bicentennial Committee at the Knox Memorial Monument on the western end of the Town Green facing the Fire Station, and promptly escorted to the Josiah Smith Tavern in whose barn, courtesy of Women's Community League, they will be housed overnight, sleeping bags and all. A reception in the Tavern for these travelers, weary and cold, will be hosted by our Society. Come and help us give them a warm and spontaneous welcome to Weston. It will give you an opportunity to meet each person informally and hear, perhaps, of some of their realistic experiences.

"MILLIONAIRES' LOCAL"

During the spring of 1904 Weston was in the headlines daily. Mabel Page had been murdered for no apparent reason and the guilt of the suspected assassin was not yet proved. Suddenly, in the middle of April, Weston became doubly featured in the press. This second bit of news was greatly overplayed on account of all the Page publicity; such an unimportant item would ordinarily rate space well within the paper but now with Weston very much on the map, anything happening there deserved to make the headlines. The Boston Post for April 13th carried the following:

> "MILLIONAIRES' LOCAL IN WRECK - Five people injured, scores of passengers shaken up from fear and fright, and a property loss of more than $10,000 for the Central Massachusetts road."

At 6:30 the previous evening an eastbound train from Marlboro known as the "Theatre Train" because it took passengers to Boston for that purpose, backed into a siding near Weston Station to let the westbound *Millionaires' Local* pass. Unfortunately, it hadn't backed in far enough to escape being hit. The force of the collision threw the inbound locomotive and some cars off the track causing havoc among the passengers. Several women fainted and "three or four more were stunned when thrown against the iron framework of the seats, (while others were) greatly agitated in hearing the noise of escaping steam from the wrecked locomotive as it lay on its side halfway down the steep embankment".* Women were "huddled together in one end of the car in mortal terror," while the men tried to allay their fears with calm words of reassurance. The fireman who had jumped out of the cab to escape injury was discovered at the bottom of the embankment, twenty feet below the railroad bed. No one was seriously injured—just a few bruises that were treated by Dr. Frederick Hyde, the local physician.

This, according to the article, was the fourth wreck that the Marlboro train had "figured in". Two years earlier it had run into a freight train in Waltham, killing two; six months before the wreck in question it had collided with a freight train in Wayland.

With the engine righted and the track repaired, things got back to normal and Mabel Page once again monopolized the headlines.

B.H.D.

**Questionable*

"WINDOWS ON WESTON" USEFUL TOUR-GUIDE OF LOCAL HISTORY

In mid December all members received gratis a copy of *WINDOWS ON WESTON*. Adding results of latest research, it follows the pattern and style of many walks and rides we have conducted over the past dozen years for the benefit of school children, scouts and visitors. First conceived as a supplement to the current issue of the BULLETIN, it grew to such a point where it deserved a special format of its own. The attractive booklet that developed is a credit to the Town and to the Society that has made it available to the public as another of our Bicentennial projects.

So that the public and our visitors may be able to see within a short space of time the historic sites that have thus far been uncovered, *WINDOWS ON WESTON* will guide them quickly to many of Weston's landmarks and to much of its lore. It is the hope of our directors, too, that through it, many owners and other interested parties will be stimulated to *dig* more deeply themselves into facts and artifacts hitherto unearthed so that future editions in later years may be all the more informative and complete.

Extra copies of *WINDOWS ON WESTON* may be obtained for a dollar each at The Village Bookstall, Richardson's Drugstore, and The Weston Pharmacy. Perhaps many members will take pride in mailing copies to out of town friends, giving them added insight into why Weston is a town that is cherished by all who have ever lived here.

NOTES FROM ANNUAL MEETING

The ballroom of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern was again the scene on November 11th of our annual meeting which as usual was well attended. Elected to the Board of Directors for 3 years were Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, and Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson, Roy L. Dickson, and Harold G. Travis. To fill the term of Mrs. Marshall Dwinell expiring in 1977, John H. Bishop was the unanimous choice, as was E. Olson Field for secretary to succeed John G. Brooks who has served so capably beginning with the Society's incorporation in 1963. Reports of the secretary, treasurer, and president as well as all acts of the Board for the preceding year were approved.

During a brief intermission, the Board elected Edward W. Marshall president for the ensuing year, John W. Bishop vice president, Samuel R. Payson treasurer, and Mrs. David V. Harmon recording secretary. The president expressed appreciation for the faithful work of officers and committee members with a special accolade to Roy L. Dickson for his six years of conscientious service as treasurer. He noted the steady growth in our membership which now has passed the 800 mark, and hailed the last Charter Anniversary Dinner in St. Peter's Church as "the largest and best since the original Charter Dinner in April 1964." Thanks were also expressed to the hundreds of members who had contributed to the financial and social success of last May's BARGAIN BONANZA which brought us all together and paved the way for underwriting the expense of a limited reprinting of *ONCE UPON A PUNG* and the original printing of *WINDOWS ON WESTON.*

After voicing appreciation of the BULLETIN, Mr. Marshall enumerated the various ways in which the Society is coordinating with the Weston Historical Commission and the Revolutionary War Bicentennial Committee all of whose members, of course, are active members of Weston Historical Society. The meeting closed with a slide lecture on the Knox Trail after which the Hospitality Committee served refreshments.

SOPHIA KENDAL'S PENMANSHIP AND WHERE WAS "MISS TUFTS SCHOOL?"

At the close of our annual meeting we received from one of our oldest charter members, Mrs. Franklin E. Campbell, now of Wolfboro, New Hampshire, a handsomely framed sample of her great grandmother Sophia Kendal Marshall's handwriting of 1805 vintage. It is now on permanent display at the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern, and poses a mystery because halfway between its two balanced parts are the words "MISS TUFTS SCHOOL". None of the oldtimers we have thus far contacted can identify that school. Can any reader do so?

Sophia was the granddaughter of Mrs. Campbell's great great great grandparents, Rev. Samuel Woodward and Abigail Williams Woodward.* In turn she was the great grandmother of Mrs. Campbell who was married in Weston 71 years ago. The framed picture of Sophia's handwriting at age 17 came from the family home at 334 Boston Post Road** when Mrs. Campbell's grandmother, Elizabeth Baxter Marshall Knox,*** died in 1905.

Prized by Mrs. Campbell are "a lovely sampler done by Sophia in 1801," framed pictures of her and her husband, Thomas Marshall of Boston, whom she married in 1813, many sermons by Rev. Samuel Woodward and his son-in-law, Rev. Samuel Kendal****, the latter's Phi Beta Kappa key, and the diaries kept for many years by both Sophia and her daughter, Elizabeth Marshall Knox which Mrs. Campbell's daughter, Mrs. Kenneth Wood, also a charter member and a resident of Wolfboro says she hopes to live long enough to read!

Members are urged to visit the Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon and see the framed specimen of Sophia Kendal's handwriting which after 7 decades is back once more in Weston.

**Granddaughter of Rev. John Williams, the Redeemed Captive of Deerfield.*
***Known for so many years as "The Teachers' Lodge". Now again a private residence.*
****Daughter of Thomas and Sophia Kendal Marshall.*
*****Married Abigail Woodward. Sophia was one of their 7 children.*

MORE ABOUT "ONCE UPON A PUNG"

We have been surprised that many owners of the original 1963 hard-cover edition of this historical and humorous book did not realize that the ERRATA AND CORRECTIONS sheet which was enclosed with our compliments in the last issue of The BULLETIN, is impregnated on its reverse side with an adhesive substance. We suggest Page 85 as the most appropriate location for permanent insertion.

Now that the first printing of 2,000 copies has been completely sold, a second printing with attractive paper cover is now on sale at the Village Book Stall (and the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern on Wednesday afternoons). The price for these 250 copies, as long as the supply lasts, is $3.95. It makes an ideal Bicentennial gift for family and visiting friends.

"SMITHS IN WESTON" A FAVORITE STOPPING PLACE

While reading the "Diary of Israel Litchfield" of Scituate in the latest issue of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, we were interested to note in his "Journal of a Journey to Chesterfield" that on May 24, 1775 "About ½ an hour before Sunrise Amos and I Sat out for Chesterfield. The first Stop that we made was at Browns in milton. There we fed our horses out of our bags and bought a half a mug of W. I. todde £0-2s-0 ten. We went from there to Smiths in Weston. Our horses Eat hay an hour £0-4-0. We bought half a mug of West India todde there. It Cost us £0-2-6. We Went from there to Sipping Hows in Marlbor. . . ."

This same Litchfield diary for the prior month clearly records the wet and heavy snowstorm which came as far east as Scituate early in the previous month when according to John Howe's Journal he slipped and fell from the rear roof of Squire Barnes' house in Marlboro. He landed soundly on his back in six inches of newly fallen snow while Liberty Men, armed with tar and feathers, stormed into the house from the front door.

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 13:	8 P.M. Brandon Lecture on Hews Pottery: Josiah Smith Tavern Ballroom.
Thursday, January 22:	8 P.M. MacKenzie Bicentennial Concert: High School (Auditorium).
Sunday, January 25:	2 P.M. Repeat performance of above. 5 P.M. Reception (informal) to Knox Trail Re-enactors: Josiah Smith Tavern and grounds
Saturday, June 12:	Bicentennial All-Family Weston Day from morn till midnight. Details later.

Note: Also in April/May the annual *Charter Anniversary Dinner* at place and time to be announced.

R.D 1/7/76

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Secretary: E. Olson Field
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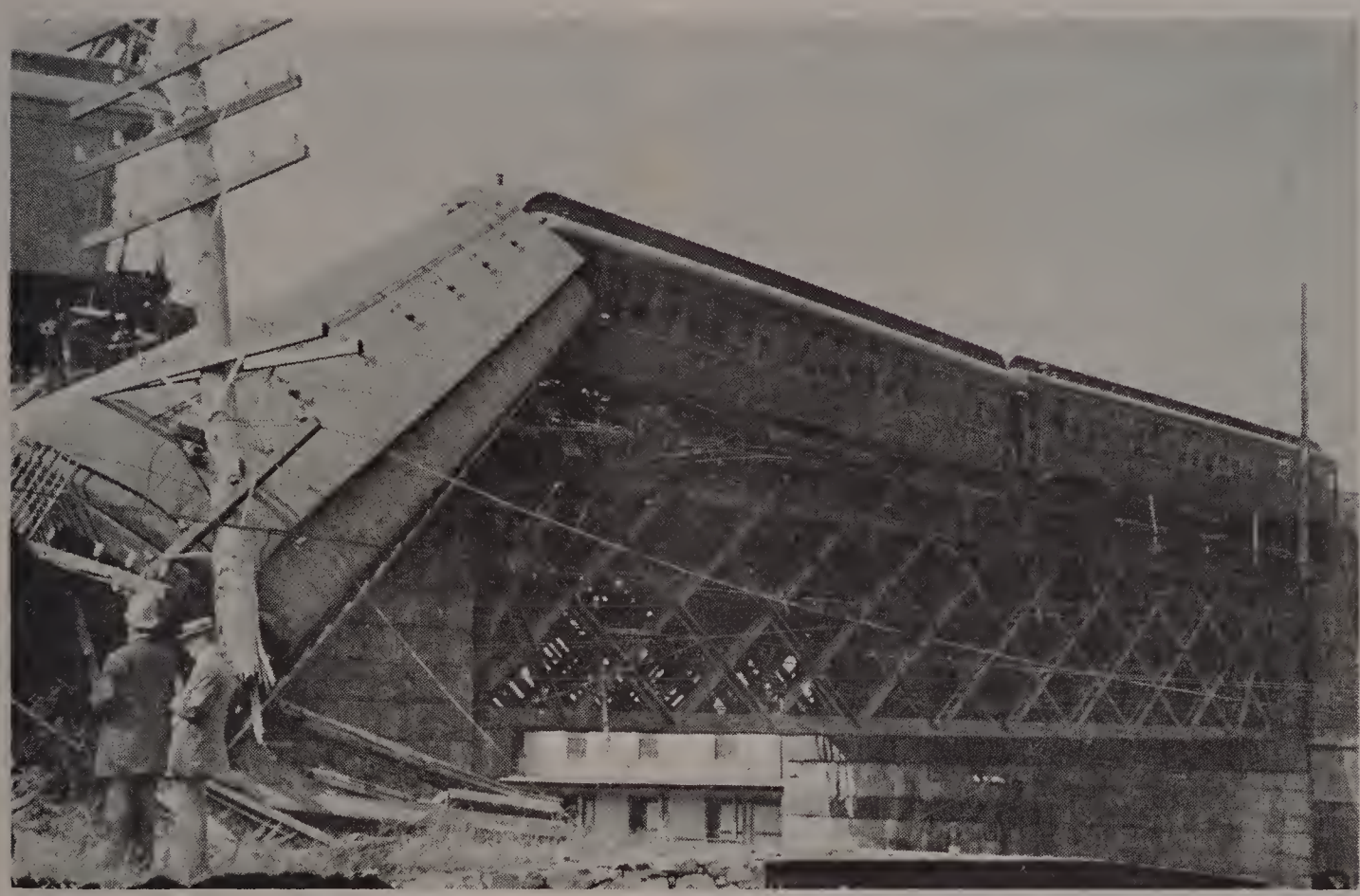
Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

SPECIAL BULLETIN NOTICE

Due to advanced costs of printing and postage, the price for additional copies is now 50 cents each, obtainable by phoning Mrs. Bonner at 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1976, Vol. XII, No. 3



" . . . WESTON END OF THE BRIDGE AND HUNG THERE AT A PRECARIOUS ANGLE."

Photographs from H. Bentley Crouch Collection *See story on Page 3*

"BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE ADAMS CHRONICLES" MARCH 18TH BICENTENNIAL LECTURE

On Thursday evening, March 18th at 8 o'clock in the Ball Room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, Mrs. Sumner Babcock of Wellesley will take our members backstage and tell us informally about some of the challenges and problems that confronted her while serving as consultant in the filming of *THE ADAMS CHRONICLES*. Since January 20th this historic 13-week television series has been delighting a multitude of viewers on Channel 2, Station WGBH, every Tuesday evening at 9 and again on Saturdays an hour earlier. Mrs. Babcock's talk therefore is not only timely but also appropriate, coming as it does in the midst of the observance of our nation's Bicentennial.

A resident of Wellesley, she had countless calls from location, usually the former Fox Studio in New York, for verification of facts, fashions, figures, and furniture, for authoritative and urgent advice as to details in the area of costumes, customs, language, properties, and settings. Her many personal visits were long and strenuous, but ever exciting. She was well qualified for such major and basic responsibilities. As a former member of the curatorial staff at Old Sturbridge Village, and director of the Wenham Historical Society, she was a fellow in the Winterthur Museum and Garden Program that culminated in her receiving a master's degree in "American Studies in the Decorative Arts" at the University of Delaware.

The hard decisions that veritably had to be made on the spot and on the spur of the moment because of time schedules will provide us with fascinating glimpses into what took place in the filming of this historic masterpiece. We look forward to a large attendance March 18th and remind our members that early arrivals can choose the best seats!

IN MEMORIAM

Our Society lost one of its most faithful charter members in the passing on February 17th of Mrs. David M. (Rosamond Bennett) Little after a short illness. We last saw her on the Town Green and at the Josiah Smith Tavern on that recent Sunday afternoon and evening when the Knox Trail Trekkers were hosted overnight. Though the Massachusetts Turnpike destroyed her birthplace, she moved across the street on South Avenue and resided there until her death, active in all historical matters and a steady attendant at our meetings.

We record with sadness the death on February 13th of Arthur C. Havlin, who for thirty-five years was a resident of Weston. On retiring from business 16 years ago, he moved to Osterville. He returned often and regularly to the town to which he had given so much of himself in public service and support. He and his wife, Janet, who survives him and to whom our sincere sympathy is extended, have long been faithful members of our Society.

WESTON'S BICENTENNIAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

With directors, officers, and a vast number of our members participating actively in the planning and implementation of Weston's commemoration of our nation's Bicentennial, the wholehearted support by every family of each and all of the below events will be in keeping with the aims and purposes of The Weston Historical Society.

Thursday March 4: 8 P.M. High School Gymnasium:

BICENTENNIAL MUSIC CELEBRATION:— High School Band, Orchestra, Choruses, Junior High and Elementary School groups. Musical numbers include Sousa's George Washington Bicentennial March, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, Give My Regards To Broadway, and The Yellow Rose of Texas. The audience will join in the singing of our national anthem.

Thursday March 18: 8 P.M. Josiah Smith Tavern. Bicentennial Lecture:—

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE ADAMS CHRONICLES by Mrs. Sumner Babcock. Members may invite guests. See story on Page One.

Friday April 9: 7:30 P.M. Weston Town Hall: a two-part Program:

JOHN HOWE, BRITISH SPY: original sound movie based on his Journal and produced by students of RIVERS SCHOOL.

AWARD OF PRIZES: Townwide LITERARY AND ART BICENTENNIAL CONTEST.

Wednesday May 12: 7 P.M. Parish Hall of St . Peter's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER, WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY members. Our speaker, Dr. Howard B. Jefferson, will tell us of "JOSIAH THOMAS AND THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY". Details will appear in our next issue: meanwhile save the date.

Monday May 31: 10:00 A.M. Weston Town Hall. MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES, followed by march with High School Band through business section to Farmers' Burying Ground, Soldiers' Park Memorial Monument, Central and Linwood Cemeteries.

Saturday June 12: BICENTENNIAL FAMILY DAY: Morning, afternoon, and evening townwide program will involve and interest all ages of townspeople from youngest babies to oldest centenarians. Church services, reading of THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, gala parade, picnics, plays, band concert, sports, games, and all sorts of homespun, wholesome fun and fellowship IN THE WESTON TRADITION.

". . . LOCOMOTIVES AND THE FIRST FEW CARS WERE A SHAMBLES."

". . . FIFTY PASSENGERS, ALL PILED IN THE LOWER END . . ."

THE WRECK OF "THE YANKEE"

On September second 1910, the *YANKEE*, a train bound for New York by way of Springfield, left Boston at noon with six hundred passengers aboard. At 12:30 it raced past Riverside Station, picking up speed for the grades that lay ahead. Less than half a minute later the two locomotives and the first few cars were a shambles, for the train had hit an open interlocking switch and jumped the tracks. Both engines ploughed through five hundred and ten feet of ties, cutting and splintering them into bits, but they still managed to reach the Weston end of the Charles River bridge before coming to a stop with their tenders overturned.

The mail car telescoped the rear of engine number two. The next car was the "smoker" which was filled with people, and it started rolling down towards the river. Suddenly it caught on an abutment at the Weston end of the bridge and hung there at a precarious angle.

Ambulances and physicians hurried to the scene and the Newton chemical engine rushed to extinguish in the locomotives the fires which threatened to spread back into the wooden coaches. Fifty passengers, all piled in the lower end of the smoker, were taken out through the shattered windows. Some of them had to go to the Newton Hospital to be treated for cuts, bruises, and other minor injuries, but the only real casualty was a broken arm! Anyone looking at the shambles might well wonder why a great many people weren't killed, either from the jolt or from panic in the upended smoking car.

The mail clerk, badly bruised and bleeding, was found sitting on a mail sack, smoking a cigar. When they asked him if he would like to be taken to a doctor, he replied, "As long as I can sit up, I guess I'll look after this registered mail." He remained at his post until some authorized clerks arrived from the West Newton post office to relieve him. The mail car incidentally, was shattered beyond repair, and after all the metal worth salvaging had been removed, it was set on fire and burned where it lay.

The surface of the Charles River was strewn with splintered fragments of the wrecked coaches and other floating debris, and many sightseers and souvenir hunters were on hand to collect mementos of the extraordinary accident. A special locomotive was sent out from Boston. Five undamaged coaches and a parlor car were uncoupled from the derailed train so that passengers might proceed to their various destinations.

In spite of all that happened at Riverside, this special train managed to arrive in Springfield only one hour and ten minutes late. As for the mess at Riverside, it took fourteen hours to clean it up and get all four sets of tracks back into normal service.

Brenton H. Dickson

AND WHO WAS THIS MAN ROBY?

(A sequel to THE SPY THAT HID IN WESTON and "AN EDITOR'S DILEMMA" in our March 1975 issue: Vol. XI, No. 3)

More times than not, diaries and journals in the field of dangerous espionage are tantalizingly vague and purposely noncommittal. Once ensnared in the hazards of such a career, the secret agent or spy must perforce abandon, forsake, and renounce any carelessness that would ever make his methods, moves, and techniques matters of common knowledge or even of suspicion. At the cost of life itself, he must leave no trace or trail to identify his employer as an individual, group, or nation. Nor dare he reveal the motives, be they sincere, sinister, or what, that lie behind every move or word. That's why it's so difficult to defend, prove, or substantiate the authenticity and veracity of

A
JOURNAL
kept by
MR. JOHN HOWE
while he was employed as a
BRITISH SPY
during the Revolutionary War
ALSO
while he was engaged in the
SMUGGLING BUSINESS
during the late war
Concord, N.H.
LUTHER ROBY, PRINTER
1827

Were he still alive at the time of that publication, John Howe would have been 79 years of age. Roby himself was 27,—destined to live to be 83,—when he offered to the public "this pamphlet which has never been published before."

Where did Roby get that Journal,—was Howe still alive and if so, had old age taken its toll,—had Roby ever met or corresponded with him,—why is part of the Journal written in the first person, some parts obviously condensed,—and why do certain parts wind up in the third person? None of these queries are answered in any way, shape, or manner. Publisher Roby merely assures "The Public" that he himself is to reap no financial gain of any kind, but pledges humanely that "the profits resulting from the sale of the same will be appropriated to the benefit of an industrious and enterprising Citizen of New Hampshire, who, a short time since, had the misfortune to be deprived of his sight, by the accidental explosion of a rock, while he was engaged in charging the same." Who was that unfortunate man? Again, Roby did not choose to say.

Both John Howe and Luther Roby have had some distinguished recognition through our most recent half century. Roby printed the Journal in 1827, and exactly one hundred years later it was reproduced in *MAGAZINE OF HISTORY*, Extra Number 132, Tarrytown, N. Y. 1927. A dozen years later, the pamphlet was considered of sufficient interest because of its rarity to be re-issued by the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY in its *PHOTOSTAT AMERICANA*, Second Series, Number 82, Boston 1939.

It's easier for us to authenticate Luther Roby and to verify his integrity than it has been after years of much greater effort to prove who John Howe actually was and that he himself did write the Journal verbatim as Roby printed it. We found in war records for the Albany, N. Y. area that more than a dozen John Howes enlisted in the Continental Army from that region alone in 1775! The possibility of the name being a non de plume or alias cannot lightly be dismissed. Rather it adds zest to the chase of Howe and his Journal. Until the facts are known, we give him the benefit of the doubt, hoping that in a positive manner he some day can be proved to have been a hero in his unusual field. Meanwhile, our study of Luther Roby, the man who published the Journal a century and

a half ago, reveals an apparently honest and good citizen of high ideals, indefatigable energy, and endless good works. As such, he gets a high mark in our Credibility Test. A sixteen page article by Mr. Edward J. Gallagher in the September 1946 issue of HISTORICAL NEW HAMPSHIRE, published by the New Hampshire Historical Society, is entitled: *LUTHER ROBY, EARLY NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLISHER*. In it we find much of the fascinating information that follows:

Luther Roby was born in the first year of the 19th Century in Amherst, New Hampshire, birthplace of Horace Greeley. He served his apprenticeship under Richard Boylston who was related by marriage to President John Adams and whose wife was a niece of Paul Revere. By the time Roby reached twenty he had proved his craftsmanship by printing a bible, certainly a good step morally! On November 13, 1821 he sent ahead to Concord, the state capitol, a notice to the effect that on the following New Year's Day, he would locate there and publish "The Statesman" every Monday evening "on a royal sheet with new and handsome type, at 2 dollars per annum."

His first editorial asserted: "If a newspaper be prostituted to the service of puffing a few syncophantic dependents, and blasting the character of honest and independent politicians, whether Republican or Federal, the spirit of liberty will rouse the indignation of the people, and consign the editor to perpetual infamy and disgrace." Entering wider fields, Roby sold "The Statesman" to Amos Parker in June 1821 but continued to print it for 18 months. By then he had obtained the right to stereotype plates for printing bibles.

As it does in this modern day, the Holy Bible headed the Best Sellers list and, in lieu of royalties, "rent" was usually paid for the use of stereotypes. Already Roby had been printing Noah Webster spelling books, and both Leavitt's and Poor Richard Almanacs. An item in the Concord *MONITOR* referred to Roby as "owner of the largest stereotype foundry in America." Previously he had claimed that he was "publishing more Bibles and Hymnals than any man in the world." Would a man of such prominence in the religious world stoop to the publication of a "phoney hoax"?

By 1830 a distributorship alliance was formed, wholesale and retail, under the name of Roby, Kimball, and Merrill. Merrill did the selling, and Roby printed the bibles, primers, almanacs, and spelling books. Money then was scarce and we find many instances of barter. As an example, Thomas Groom, the Boston stationer, supplied paper from England for the printing, also calf and sheepskins for the binding, in return for bibles and other books manufactured by Roby. Other prominent customers included Philadelphia's Lippincott and such firms as Harper and Bros. and D. Appleton of New York. Publications were many and notable, ranging from Reverend *Henry Weare's* Sermons (the first Unitarian book issued in the state), to *William Tell, Stranger's Grave, Daily Food, Capt. Mayatt's Novels, Naval Battles,* and many other books and pamphlets among which the Journal of John Howe interests us most.

Roby's first wife, Nancy Curtis, died in 1827 and late in the following year he married Mary Ann Kimball. He was the father of ten children, two by his first wife. He loved his family, seldom traveled, and his office and plant were always a short walk from home. For eight years he headed the Concord Fire Department with "more than 400 men and boys manning nine hand engines." As late as 1880 an interviewer mentioned how much he prized among his greatest possessions, his fireman's hat and trumpet. He recalled then that in 1848, Concord had 1804 voters and his salary was five dollars a year!

From earliest youth, he had been enamored of geology. When concentration on the printing profession began to impair his health, he was forced to take exercise in the open air. During long walks, he was particularly fond of Rattlesnake Hill where his geological explorations revealed the merits of what became the granite quarries of Concord. With his son, he put in the first blast and made the first opening. Before that time, James O. Lyford's History tells us, "all the granite had been taken from boulders." (See how this ties into Luther Roby's promise "To the Public" to give the profits of Howe's Journal to the relief of an unfortunate dynamiter who had been blinded by "the explosion of a rock.").

Operating as LUTHER ROBY AND SON, large contracts were taken, the first being for the Merchants Bank in Boston, close to the scene of the Boston Massacre. The original 1834 quarry was close to a spring in the rear of the New Hampshire State Prison.

Roby located his stoneyard back of his printing house not far from East Concord's Federal Bridge. He served a term in the state legislature in 1837, another in 1849, and during his first the state discontinued the employment of convicts at the old state prison as stone cutters. It was not until 1932 (95 years later) that a stone plant again became one of the New Hampshire prison industries.

Still another field captured Roby's enthusiasm. In 1839 he was the leading spirit in inaugurating the Sewall's Falls Locks and Canal Company, an undertaking that was quickly abandoned, though, when the Boston, Concord, and Montreal railroad came through. His hopes for the ultimate development of Sewall's Falls waterpower culminated partially in the building of the Concord Electric Company's generating plant.

"Who Was Luther Roby"? Well, now we have seen what an active and diversified man he was. First and always a local printer at heart, he was a publisher of national prominence, and a man of such energies and enthusiasms as to have made a name for himself as quarryman, stonecutter, state legislator, fire chief, canal builder, and a pioneer in waterpower development. While he was still alive in the '80's, the Concord MONITOR saluted him as "One of the most enterprising and energetic busimess men of Concord . . . and to this day his cheerful face and aged form are familiar to Concord citizens . . . his interest in local affairs puts to shame some of younger years and more vigorous strength." And in his "History of Amherst", Mr. D. F. Secomb declared that "Mr. Roby was an active man in everything he undertook. He possessed a gift of language seldom equalled."

In the early days of his career, Roby himself had editorialized:

> "The people cannot long be deceived, nor their opinions controlled by praise lavished upon base or weak men."

Was he the sort of man, then, who would forego all profit for himself in order to aid an unfortunate fellowman, and at the same time knowingly and deliberately publish a travesty on truth?

Readers are urged to keep ever alert for clues that still might point to factual and fuller disclosure of who "John Howe" really was. Was the name itself openly an alias, as part of the disguised role he was so expertly and ingeniously playing? In the world of the military, one might naturally expect to be frustrated and thwarted, but there's still a possibility that should not be overlooked in our dogged research. Some confirmation of his postwar smuggling activities might be uncovered in old letters or records. His maneuvers in the realm of camouflage as described by one of those he artfully had deceived and outwitted might provide clues of substantial value.

Whenever, wherever, and however information is ever obtained, let the discoverer bring it into broad daylight. If a few pieces can be made to fit in just one corner or segment, the much desired brand of *"AUTHENTICITY"* might, after all, be applied to the *"intriguing"* life of "JOHN HOWE, A BRITISH SPY."

Harold G. Travis

Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P.O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Due to advanced costs of printing and postage, the price for additional copies is now 50 cents each, obtainable by phoning Mrs. Bonner at 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1976, Vol. XII, No. 4

THE HOUSE THAT ISAAC FISKE BUILT

This picture of the 1805 FISKE-FIELD HOUSE was taken prior to the 1900 Fire. Read *"An Unusual Centennial"*, Pages 2, 3, 4, and 5.

A NEW BOOK ON WESTON HISTORY "ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS"

The Society is pleased to announce that through the generosity of the co-authors, Brenton H. Dickson 3rd and Homer C. Lucas, we have acquired the copyright and exclusive sales rights to their new book, *"ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS."* After more than two years of extensive research, this book is the most definitive history of Weston's role in the Revolution that has ever been published. Its more than two hundred and twenty pages are enhanced by an informative appendix of thirty pages. An elaborate index for cross reference runs into ten more and is an added feature.

Members of Weston Historical Society are being given special opportunity to purchase this book at attractive pre-publication rates between now and May 25th when higher prices will be announced. Until that date, orders will be taken for the paperback edition at five dollars per copy. Also a more limited number of autographed hard cloth covered copies are available at a price of nine dollars each.

Check payable to "SOCIETY BOOK FUND" should be sent promptly to Weston Historical Society, Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193. Publication date is set for the beginning of June.

AN UNUSUAL CENTENNIAL

Over three score years ago, on the 20th day of December 1915, seven descendants of Rev. Joseph Field, Jr. and two dozen of Isaac Fiske's, gathered in the house that Isaac had built in 1805 and sold by him 10 years later to the new minister of the First Parish Church, Reverend Joseph Field, Jr. The 31 Fiske-Field descendants were commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of that deed. Simultaneously they rejoiced in a century of uninterrupted occupancy by the Field family, as the following testimonial attests:

1815 — 1915

*In token of 100 years of uninterrupted friendship between the **Field** and the **Fiske** families, begun by **Isaac Fiske** and **Joseph Field** at the time of the Napoleonic Wars and continued ever since by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren unto this year of the Great War, we their grateful descendants hereto set our hands, as guests of **Edward B. Field** at a celebration held in the house in **Weston** that **Isaac Fiske** conveyed to **Joseph Field**, to record our own gratification and as an inspiration to those who shall follow us.*

Weston, Massachusetts, December 20th 1915.

Charles H. Fiske
Caroline H. Field
Brenton H. Dickson Jr.
Chandler Robbins
Marian D. B. Robbins
[illegible]
Mary Field
Charles H. Fiske 3rd
Mary [illegible]
Olsen Field
Theodore Dickson
Chandler Robbins 2d
Brenton H. Dickson 3d
Rosanna Fiske
Anna H. Dickson Hamak
Sarah Ripley Robbins
Erlund Field

Augustus H. Fiske
Laura Foster Robbins
Hannah Bradford [illegible]
Cornelia Robbins Fiske
Charles H. Fiske Jr.
Joseph B. Cake Field
Gardiner H. Fiske
R. H. Field
Mary D. Fiske
Grace Co. Fiske
[illegible]
[illegible] B. Dickson
CHANDLER ROBBINS JR
Edward B. Field

AN UNUSUAL CENTENNIAL

(Continued from previous page)

To clarify and identify the signatures, we have reproduced them below, inserting an asterisk to designate the eight signers who are still living.

CHARLES H. FISKE
Grandson of Isaac Fiske
CAROLINE I. FIELD
Joseph's granddaughter
BRENTON H. DICKSON, JR.
Isaac's great grandson
CHANDLER ROBBINS
Isaac's great grandson
MARIAN S. B. ROBBINS
wife of William Robbins,
Isaac's great grandson
ANDREW FISKE
Isaac's grandson
MARY FIELD
Joseph's granddaughter
CHARLES H. FISKE, 3RD
Isaac's great, great grandson
MARY DICKSON
Isaac's great, great granddaughter
*OLSEN FIELD
Joseph's great grandson
THEODORE DICKSON
Isaac's great, great grandson
CHANDLER ROBBINS, 2ND
Isaac's great, great grandson
*BRENTON H. DICKSON 3RD
Isaac's great, great grandson
ROSANNA FISKE
Isaac's great, great granddaughter
*ANNA + DICKSON her mark
Isaac's great, great granddaughter
*SARAH RIPLEY ROBBINS
Isaac's great, great granddaughter
*ERLUND FIELD
Joseph's great grandson

AUGUSTUS H. FISKE
Isaac's great grandson
LAURA FOSTER ROBBINS, Wife of
Chandler Robbins, Isaac's great grandson
HANNAH BRADFORD FISKE
Isaac's great granddaughter
*CORNELIA ROBBINS FISKE
Isaac's great, great granddaughter
CHARLES H. FISKE, JR.
Isaac's great grandson
*JOSEPH BLAKE FIELD
Joseph's great grandson
GARDINER H. FISKE
Isaac's great grandson
ROBERT FIELD
Joseph's grandson
MARY D. FISKE, wife of Charles H. Fiske, Jr.
Isaac's great grandson
MARY C. FISKE, widow of George Fiske,
Isaac's grandson
GERTRUDE H. FISKE
Isaac's great granddaughter
RUTH B. DICKSON, wife of Brenton H.
Dickson, Jr.,
Isaac's great grandson
*CHANDLER ROBBINS, JR.
Isaac's great, great grandson
EDWARD B. FIELD
Joseph's grandson

The framed original of this testimonial has been presented to us by our fellow charter member and secretary, Mr. Olsen Field.* It has been hung in the law office of Isaac Fiske, headquarters of our Society, on the wall above the guestbook table in the waiting room, but to protect the signatures from further fading, its face has been turned toward the wall. The other side which will first meet your eye therefore, is of equal historic interest, and it, too, has been reproduced herein.

It is believed that the author of *OUR OLD HOME* as shown on Page 5 was Andrew Fiske, grandfather of two more of our fellow charter members, Harold B. Willis, Jr. and Andrew F. Willis whose homes adjoin each other on nearby Concord Road. Beneath the Centennial Ode of 1915, placed side by side, are pictures of the house before 1900 as shown on Page One and circa 1909 as found on Page Five.

*Olsen Field's older brother, Erlund, has been a director of Weston Historical Society since its beginning in 1963, and is unsurpassed in his zeal for all its activities, and in promoting the preservation of the Town's historical assets. —Ed.

When he sold his house to Field in 1815, Fiske moved one door to the east as his great, great grandson Brent Dickson recalled in our March 1973, Vol. IX No. 3 issue and again in Vol. X No. 3 a year later. The Baldwin Tavern dated back to 1736 and "Isaac Fiske made the house his Weston headquarters from 1815 until his death in 1861." The Waltham *FREE PRESS* of August 22, 1890 carried the sad headline FIRE DESTROYS ISAAC FISKE HOUSE (BALDWIN TAVERN)." Fortunately the light breeze from the west prevented sparks from reaching the subject of our current story.

After fifty faithful years of ministry in Weston and of living in this beautiful house, Rev. Field retired in 1865 and died three years later. He is buried in Central Cemetery across the street not far from his longtime friend, Isaac Fiske. On the front page of the March 1969 BULLETIN, Vol. V, No. 3, these two patriarchs are shown seated together before the east entrance. Pages 3 and 4 of the same issue contain the fascinating story of the 1967 restoration that Jean Nichols wrote for us.

After 129 years the famous residence finally passed from the Field family in 1944. The new owners, Major and Mrs. George K. Saurwein, conveyed it to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Bush, Jr. in 1964, who in turn sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Nichols in 1967 whose ownership, we trust, will through their descendants one day rival the Field record!

Heartwarming to all of us is the thought that descendants of both Rev. Joseph Field, Jr. and of Isaac Fiske still carry out the tradition of good citizenship and friendliness that their forefathers established here more than a century and a half ago. On your next visit to our headquarters, the Fiske 1805 Law Office at No. 626 Boston Post Road, be sure to note the framed testimonial above described. Then step into Isaac's office, pause beside his portrait, and look out to the west where in Central Cemetery his monument stands (BULLETIN for May 1970, Vol. VI No. 4). It and the house diagonally across the street stand as sentinels in tribute to a friendship that has continuously endured for 171 years. —H.G.T.

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER MAY 12, 1976

Advance reservations for the traditionally high point of the Society's year, — the Charter Anniversary Dinner, — are arriving daily and members are reminded to mail their checks before May 8th for the big event that will again fill the hall of St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Wednesday evening, *May 12th* at 7 o'clock.

In keeping with tradition, also, our speaker, Howard Jefferson, is of the highest caliber and charm: — his topic *ISAIAH THOMAS AND THE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY* is appropriate and timely in this Bicentennial Year of the American Revolution. We are fortunate to have Dr. Jefferson, recipient of nine honorary degrees from various colleges and universities as the one who will so authoritatively tell us of the colorful Thomas, fearless publisher of this nation's most parlous era.

An opportunity to join the Society prior to the dinner is extended to any friends and neighbors you may wish to bring as your guests. Be sure to make your reservations by May 8th, using the blank that came with our special mailing last month.

OUR OLDFASHIONED GARDEN AT THE LAW OFFICE —NATURAL CHARM AT ITS BEST—

The early daffodils, stately in glorious gold, were again resplendent at Easter, and now it's lilac time! Later varieties of daffodils are not far behind. In June the peonies will pop out, and all through Weston's summertime we'll have day lilies. In its sequestered, picturesque, and peaceful setting, the little oldfashioned garden nestles quietly just two dozen short steps below the Burgoyne Elm Bole, a hallmark of Weston history.

Out of our thousand and one members, can we perchance find just a few, ten would be too many, who stay in Weston summers, who are not too "involved," who have a few minutes once a week to render a simple service dependably, who *care enough to care for* our little gem by pulling a few weeds before they get tough, and who, when the dry spells come, could spend a few minutes tending to the sprinkler?

"If such there breathe," call 899-4515 and you will find yourself helping through this Bicentennial summer to treat Weston's visitors with a charming sight as they pause for a moment at this historic spot.

THE 1805 FISKE–FIELD HOUSE

After the 1900 Fire, a northeast wing was added plus a third story replete with dormer windows and an ornamental railing. In the foreground may be seen Mrs. Edward B. Field (died March 9, 1910) and two of her three sons.

1815 1915

Our Old Home

Old house, sedate, serene and dignified;
Stanch rock of refuge, amid life's rushing tide.
Built by the hand of men whose honest stroke
Bears evidence today, for still your sturdy oak
Remains unchanged; Time gives you little fears,
Nor moved are you by storm, or joys or tears.
Each room and hall a thousand memories hold,
Eloquent of those departed, long years beneath the mould
Have lain the dear ones that grim old Reaper Death
Stole by your guard and stopped their labored breath,
And yet as if to make amends, and him to mock.
Full many a time you secreted the stork.
Beneath your roofs where first we saw the light
And learned our prayers, by mother's knee at night;
'Twas in your shadow that our love first came,
You shared our many hopes, or secret shame.
All ties that bind, all links of love that trend
To keep united, hold us to you, dear friend.
Today we pay you homage, both Fiske and Field,
From East and West and North and South, to share our weal
With you, old house, just for a little stay
To celebrate your christening, one hundred years today.
You still were old, when we were young and fair,
Unchanged, dear place, are you, yet in our hair
The silver takes the place of gold; we have not learned
The lesson you would teach us, but have spurned
The wisdom of your years, your safe abode,
And left your shelter for Life's tempestuous road,
Faring afield, amid all the eternal strife,
Seeking for gold, which might bring comfort into life.
And you, old home, could it be done, would smile,
For 'twas not wealth, but you, held comfort all the while.
Our span of years, too short at best, soon pass,
And we are gathered in, to form that mass
Gone on before, the gateway of the sod
Leads to those dear departed, and to God.
But you, fair earthly home, will still remain;
Standing erect a hundred years is all the same
To such great hardihood as yours; let tempests come,
The biting blasts of winter, or scorching sun
Temper your calm reserve, and all will cease
Their petty worries, for in you is peace.

Weston, Dec. 20, 1915.

"FINDERS---KEEPERS" DIDN'T APPLY IN "BACK THEN" DAYS

In the basement vault of the Town Hall, the Weston Historical Commission comprised of active members of our Society, has uncovered a most fascinating volume entitled "WESTON'S BOOK OF RECORD FOR *STRAYS* AND LOST GOODS, ETC. 1717-1779" with many 19th Century documents concerning Lost and Found properties.

The earliest record is of Dec. 4, 1717 and reports: "Taken up by John Warrin as Strays,—Two Small young Swine of Most part of both being White and one of them a Barrow, with a piece of its Tail Cut Off. The other a Sow with a Sandy Spot Upon the back."

Apparently the procedure was to advertise and/or report to the Town Clerk such properties;—he would appoint such appraisers of unclaimed items, auction them off and pay "finder's expenses." Thus, in 1874 Esra Fiske, yeoman, and Washington Pierce, yeoman, were addressed "By virtue of the Power and authority to me given in and by a law of the Commonwealth entitled 'an act respecting lost goods and stray beasts', I do hereby appoint you to appraise upon oath at the true value thereof in money, according to your best skill and judgment, a certain red colored cow with a white stripe on the back, and wen or hunch on the neck, found and taken as a stray by Luther Harrington of the same Weston. Gentlemen: Having performed this service you are to make return of the warrant into Town Clerk's office of said Weston with your doings, herein, within seven days from the date hereof.' " (The cow was appraised at $26).

Many other items were so handled, including cloth, wallets, "a piece of iron about a hundred odd weight", sows, mares, steers, heifers, oxen, (most often) rams. Typically in 1845, one account itemized:

"Isaac R. Lovewell paid	to Henry Brackett for horsekeeping	4.00
	to William Greenwood for prising	.25
	to George Bigelow for prising	.25
	to John Jones for selling	.25
	to Isaac R. Lovewell fees	.50
	for advertising	.50
	for advertising geting prised	.50
	for attendance auction	.50
	to Benjamin Jones	.40
		7.15
	(notation undecipherable)	.85
		8.00

The particular horse involved was "prised" for 6 dollars and 25 cents. If that's all it brought at auction, was the Town or Mr. Lovewell the loser as well as the erstwhile owner?

E. W. M.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since the beginning of the year we have been proud to have the following new members affiliate with our work: Messrs. John H. Porter, M.D. of 45 Sunset Road, Jeremy Scott Ward of 10 Pigeon Hill Road, and Donald S. Smith Jr. of 8 LeMay Street, West Hartford, Connecticut.

WHAT "FAMILY DAY JUNE 12TH" CAN MEAN TO WESTON!

In a nutshell, the great spirit of Weston's past, present, and future can come to fruition when the whole Weston family from the oldest resident to the youngest babe in arms gather for a moment or two on the town green or in one of our churches, parks, or playgrounds to record the fact that when all of us join hands and hearts, the power with which we have been endowed is unconquerable as Weston faces the centuries ahead.

TWO MORE BICENTENNIAL TREES REPORTED

Since our issue of January 1975: Vol. VI No. 2: – two more venerable trees that were standing during the American Revolution have been reported by members. One is the symmetrical old oak that is still flourishing in the back yard of the residence at 101 Wellesley Street owned by the Case Estates of the Arboretum. Added to the two venerable oaks on the Skating Pond Road estate of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Doyle, Jr., we thus have three Bicentennial Oaks in Weston.

In addition to the eight Bicentennial Buttonwoods described in our January 1975 issue, Mrs. Robert Ellis brought promptly to our attention one that can easily be spotted only as one approaches the westbound toll gate entrance to the Massachusetts Turnpike after entering from the Loring Road ramp. Though almost directly across the street from No. 71 South Avenue, the tree is set back some hundred feet and is obscured by a rather dense thicket of wild growth.

We now have located nine Buttonwood trees and three oaks for a total of twelve that were living 200 years ago. Visiting each would be an interesting and informative project for some of our scout troops and school classes.

Weston is noted for the beauty of its trees, and while only a dozen have lived for two centuries, there are many whose ages obviously are over the halfway point. Contrary to what one might suppose, the buttonwoods are reseeding themselves to some extent. The twins that face the Isaac Fiske Law Office and its adjoining Burgoyne Elm bole on the Boston Post Road are rather proud of the healthy scion a few feet to the east of them that came into the world at, it is estimated, the turn of the century. Farther east on the Post Road across the street from St. Peter's Episcopal Church and Children's Park, one can find two more about 1,000 feet apart, both battleworn and scarred.

Other buttonwoods varying in age from 50 to 175 years may be observed at the following sites: two along Conant Road's eastern edge a hundred feet or so north of No. 70; one in excellent condition at No. 82 Brook Road; another just south of the brook at No. 240 South Avenue; one beside the driveway at No. 20 Newton Street, and a good-sized one opposite No. 21 Chestnut Street.

The emphasis being placed above on this one somewhat ungainly, time-worn buttonwood type of tree is justified, we feel, by its record for longevity. It is hoped, therefore, that our rugged buttonwoods will be accorded special consideration by planners and voters when proposing and promoting,–approving or opposing,–the inevitable changes that lie ahead.

SPECIAL NOTICE
SANDERSON HILL'S "BEACON STONE"
DEDICATION TO BE BY INVITATION ONLY

Because of its location at the junction of two narrow roads, the site of the "BEACON STONE" on Sanderson Hill cannot accommodate more than 250 persons. Consequently for the dedication exercises on June 12th which mark the unveiling of a plaque to memorialize the men of Weston who guarded the beacon in the dark days of the Revolution, the corner of Love Lane and Highland Street will be closed off for a short while, and admission by bus will be controlled by special passes secured beforehand. Members of the Weston Historical Society are specially invited to join visiting dignitaries and town officials to the extent of capacity. Arrangements must be made in advance by calling 899-4515.

* * *

REMINDER: See you at the *Charter Anniversary Dinner May 12th.* The deadline for reservations is May 8th.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday May 12: 7 P.M. Parish Hall of St. Peter's Episcopal Church
ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER: Dr. Howard Jefferson, Speaker. Details are to be found on Page 4.

Monday May 31: 10 A.M. Weston Town Hall: MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES.
Weston High School Band will lead procession to Farmers' Burying Ground, Soldiers' Park Monument, Central and Linwood Cemeteries. Open House at the Weston Historical Society's Josiah Smith Tavern rooms and the Isaac Fiske Law Office 11:30 until 2.

Saturday June 12: BICENTENNIAL FAMILY DAY from morn till night.
Program of townwide events will be sent to every Weston resident. Church bells will ring and the *Declaration of Independence* will be read. Parade will feature many bands and colorful floats. *SANDERSON HILL* "BEACON STONE" will be dedicated in the afternoon with visiting dignitaries and representatives of all town organizations specially invited. A play reenacting a typical TOWN MEETING of Colonial Times will highlight the evening events. Residents of the Town will receive a full program of the day's activities within the next few days.

Saturday June 19: BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE meeting, Easton Historical Society host. For details call 893-7388, 899-4515, or League Headquarters at the State House: 742-7978.

Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions to the Society are always welcome.
Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193
President: Mr. Edward W. Marshall 893-7388
Editor of the "Bulletin": Mr. Harold G. Travis 899-4515

SPECIAL BULLETIN NOTICE

Due to advanced costs of printing and postage, the price for additional copies is now 50 cents each, obtainable by phoning Mrs. Bonner at 893-4346.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1976, Vol. XIII, No. 1

"Here comes the Weston High School Bicentennial Band!" See editorial on page 2.

ANNUAL MEETING – November 11th

Howard Gambrill's Slide Talk

The Annual Meeting of the Society will be held in the ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern at 8 P.M. on Thursday, November 11th. After a short business meeting, Mr. Howard Gambrill will present a slide talk on the interesting stage by stage development of "Let the House Tell You" concept of the Golden Ball Tavern. His talk is in great demand among Historical Societies throughout the state as well as among other likeminded groups, and while all of us well know the Golden Ball, his slides and descriptions add a new dimension to the understanding of the purpose and development of the Tavern as an institution.

At the business meeting, short reports will be made and the election of directors will take place. The terms of three directors expire: those of Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, Erlund Field, and Edward W. Marshall. The continuing terms of the following directors are: 1978 Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Brenton H. Dickson 3rd, Roy L. Dickson, Harold G. Travis, and 1977: John H. Bishop, Donald D. Douglass, and Homer C. Lucas. Mr. S. J. McDonald is Chairman of the Nominating Committee and any suggestions as to candidates for Directors or Officers will be welcomed by him.

Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the meeting and it is hoped that a large audience will attend to hear Mr. Gambrill's rewarding presentation.

—Edward W. Marshall, *President*

EDITORIAL

WESTON'S ROLE IN THE NATION'S BICENTENNIAL

A complete and balanced review of Weston's observance of the American Revolution's Bicentennial will be our most important and immediate project. By unanimous vote of the Town in 1972 a committee comprising Donald D. Douglass, Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Virginia C. Jones, Dr. Vera Laska, and Harold G. Travis, all Society charter members, was appointed by the Selectmen to plan and direct appropriate observance by the Town. It can be stated that from the outset, all of the many commemorations, individual, corporate, and community, reflected the best of Weston tradition.

With the slogan "In Weston, For Weston, By Weston", the Weston American Revolution Bicentennial Committee acted as over all catalyst and coordinator while fellow townsmen from every area and organization, – and of every age and stage, – of every school with excited children and exciting faculty leadership, – all combined to give an unprecedented demonstration of resources and resourcefulness. From the warm-up "Tea-Raid" on the Golden Ball Tavern through such thrillers as the Knox Trail Reenactment and the "Ben Franklin in Paris" musicale last January, Weston's countless projects and productions crystallized finally into the most spectacular day in the Town's long history.

"FAMILY DAY" on June 12th, 1976 brought us all together as one wholesome family when every resident from the youngest babe to the oldest citizen had "a piece of the action" and a share in friendly communion. After reviewing thousands of feet of moving pictures, listening to dozens of tape recordings, arranging literally hundreds of photographs, candid and professional, and in general absorbing anecdotes that must everywhere abound, we hope by our next issue to present more highlights and sidelights that will truly portray the inspiring story of how Weston so fittingly observed the 200th birthday of our great country.

A MOST APPROPRIATE GIFT

When making up your birthday and Christmas lists, don't forget to remember how fitting would be a copy of *"ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS."* It may be purchased each Wednesday afternoon at the Josiah Smith Tavern and regularly at the Weston Pharmacy. We are indebted to our fellow member, Edward O. Carlman, for handling such sales at his store without profit to himself. Co-authored by Messrs. Brent Dickson and Homer Lucas, the new book has received many laudatory reviews. Hundreds of members have already purchased their copies which will become more valuable as the years go by. A copy should be in every Weston home and on the shelves of libraries from coast to coast. Other publications of the Society are *"ONCE UPON A PUNG"* for bedside reading and *"WINDOWS ON WESTON"* as a tour guide, reasonably priced also.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep feeling of regret that we record the passing of Mrs. Robert A. Warren and John B. Paine, both longtime Weston residents and charter members of this Society. Each had made substantial contributions to the character and characteristics of the Town. We extend to the members of their families our most heartfelt sympathy as we simultaneously record our gratitude for the many tangible ways in which each gave us great support and encouragement.

THE WESTON BEACON
VALIANTLY GUARDED BY WESTON SOLDIERS
STOOD ON THIS HILL
DURING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR
ONE OF THE GUARDS WAS JONAS SANDERSON
WHO LIVED ACROSS THE STREET
TWO HUNDRED FEET SOUTH OF THIS SPOT

The most historical event of "FAMILY DAY" on June 12th was the dedication on Sanderson Hill conducted by the Parade Grand Marshal in a quiet mid-afternoon ceremony before approximately one hundred specially invited guests, committee members, and town officials. Following his brief address, the Dedicatory Prayer was given by the pastor of the Weston Baptist Church, and members of the Weston High School Band led in the singing of "AMERICA." As the group returned to the Town Green in cars and buses, the thoughts of all seemed to center on Rev. Mannierre's closing words: "We dedicate this memorial plaque, O God of our Fathers, asking that you renew right spirits within each one of us – spirits which will bring tribute not only to the sentinels who stood at the Weston Beacon on this very hill, but also bring glory to you and assure Liberty and Justice for all your children."

THE BEACON ON SANDERSON HILL

Remarks by Harold G. Travis on June 12, 1976, at the dedication on Sanderson Hill, Weston, Massachusetts, of the plaque at The Beacon Stone on the closing day of the town's commemoration of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

"HERE ON HISTORIC SANDERSON HILL'S western slope, at the juncture of two old roads, we gather on this memorable day in June, 1976, to dedicate a plaque that memorializes THE WESTON BEACON which during the American Revolution two centuries ago, stood guard over our destiny. We are indebted to our fellow-townsman, Richard Robinson, for providing this handsome BEACON STONE AND PLAQUE. We are honored by the presence of many distinguished leaders of this Commonwealth. We welcome you, ladies and gentlemen, to our happy and peaceful town.

"Let us, for a moment in time, transport ourselves to this historic hillside two centuries ago. Today's paved roads were but cartpaths from farm to farm. These tall trees had not yet sprung from the soil. These stone walls, still neatly patterned through this densely wooded hilltop, attest to crops that grew and cattle that grazed here in Colonial times. Reaching skyward, Weston's beacon commanded a panoramic view that swept around the clock from Boston Harbor to Rhode Island to Sudbury, Worcester, Wachusett, Monadnock, Acton, Concord, and Malden. On dark and cloudy nights, how dank and lonely this spot must have been! In dead of winter with wind howling at sub-zero temperature and no sign of human company, where were cheer and comfort? Let us pause then, for an instant, to reflect on what our Sentinels at the Beacon faced night after lonely night to protect and ensure the success of our great cause."

After carefully summarizing the contents of his article on The Weston Beacon in the BULLETIN of October 1974, speaker Travis continued:

"Weston's own records of the Beacon are scant and incomplete. Efforts these past three years have been less rewarding than we had wished. With some professional guidance we have hunted for clues, digging and scratching through generations of compost. So far we have uncovered no mouldy hearth of musty ashes from oldtime fires, no iron kettle or crane, no ossified masthead, no remnants of an old bar or spar, no rocks of the beacon's foundation and no rum bottles whose contents in those days brought comfort and protection from the coldest weather.

"SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE SOUND OF MY VOICE, the Weston Beacon stood! We must keep digging until we find traces of it! Today we can be thankful that it never had to be fired, and we can be grateful to these brave young Weston soldiers who kept their faithful vigil here, ready to sound the alarm: –

JONAS SANDERSON ' ' ' ' JOEL HARRINGTON ' ' ' ' NATHANIEL PARMENTER . . . , THADDEUS PEIRCE . . . . DANIEL RAND . . . . and the sons of NATHANIEL FELCH . . . . SAMUEL LIVERMORE . . . . THOMAS GRAVES . . . . and THOMAS RAND

"And now let the Plaque be unveiled and its message read, after which our prayer of dedication will seal its message forever."

At this point, two great, great, great, great-grandchildren of Jonas Sanderson, Brian Bradley Sanderson and Susan Phyllis Sanderson, stepped forward and removed the covering from the plaque.

THE SANDERSONS WERE THERE!

Of Jonas Sanderson's nineteen living descendants, ten were on hand for the dedication of The Weston Beacon plaque on Sanderson Hill, and two of them brought their wives. Shown above, left to right, are William Bradford Sanderson II (b), Thelma Sanderson (a), Susan Phyllis Sanderson (c)*, Wayne Bradley Sanderson (b), Melinda Nelson Sanderson, William Bradford Sanderson III (c), Brian Bradley Sanderson (c)*, Trueman Sanderson (a), Norman Bradford Sanderson Jr. (b), Norman Bradford Sanderson III (c), Phyllis Orrill Sanderson, and Jeffrey Wayne Sanderson (c).
Key to above: (a) = great-great grandchild; (b) = great-great-great grandchild; (c) = great-great-great-great grandchild of Jonas Sanderson; * = Unveiled Plaque.

Another great-great grandchild of Jonas Sanderson is Mrs. Nelson H. Bayers of Washington, D.C. who through Trueman Sanderson has presented the Society with copies of two original deeds that are being kept in our Archives. One dated "the eleventh day of April A.D. one thousand seven hundred and seventy and in the tenth year of his Majesty's reign," conveys to Jonas Sanderson 45 acres with "the Dwelling house and the new half of the Barn standing thereon," and is signed by Josiah Coolidge. The other, dated "this twenty-fourth day of December Anno Domino one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three and eighth year of the Independence of the United States of America," conveys 20 acres from Moses Harrington and Mary Harrington ("her mark") which are described as "a certain tract of Pasture, mowing and wood land in Weston" abutting "said Sanderson." Any interested member may examine both documents in the Josiah Smith Tavern for further details.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Since last spring the following have joined our Society and are warmly welcomed: – June Holloway of Amherst, New Hampshire, Cornelia R. Storrow, Stonington, Connecticut, Messrs. Andrew Fiske of Shelter Island, New York, and Trueman Sanderson of Natick; Mr. and Mrs. S. Abbot Smith of Boston, and, from Weston, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ellicott III, Mr. and Mrs. William A. Gallup, Jr., Mrs. Parker W. Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Nolan, and Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong A. Stambaugh.

THIRD GRADERS MEASURE BICENTENNIAL TREES

Sparked by articles written in the January and May issues, Mr. Hamar's class at the Brooks School last spring asked us to accompany them on a bus tour to inspect the twelve Bicentennial trees which, to that date, had been located within our Town limits. Accordingly on May 27th with their class advisor, fellow member Mrs. Raymond Paynter, we all had a great morning together. The children themselves in businesslike fashion, measured the three oaks at three feet above the most easily accessible and highest ground level. Circumference of the champion was 13' 11" on the Doyle's Skating Pond Road front yard and the runner-up at 11' 4" stands in the backyard of 111 Wellesley Street on the Case Estates. The second Doyle tree measured 9' 8".

Of the nine Buttonwoods (Plane or Sycamore) only one defied measurement by the eager youngsters who were stopped by a poison ivy growth that made the approach too hazardous. Others in the order of size, not necessarily age, were found to be "this long."

1. 216 Conant Road: 13' 3¼"
2. North Avenue opposite Dog Ranch: 12' 8"
3. 625 Boston Post Road, west of driveway: 12' 4½"
4. North Avenue short distance west of (2.) above: 11' 10"
5. Boston Post Road west of Christian Science Church: 10' 9"
6. 625 Boston Post Road, east of driveway: 10' 7"
7. South of 119 Park Road: 9' 8"
8. Boston Post Road east of Isaac Fiske Law Office: 8' 8".

Borings contemplated this fall will, we hope, establish more accurate age determinations. Meanwhile the stimulus that such research provides for our school children is exemplified in part by the following extracts from letters we received from those 21 ardent third graders:

"I didn't know that trees can still live when they are hollow. And I didn't know another name for sycamore is buttonwood. I never knew that those trees were so old."

"I liked the field trip very much. The most interesting tree was the sycamore. I hope some other field trips are with you."

"If it weren't for you, I would not have found out about the Burgoyne Elm. I have learned it is 16 feet and 11 inches. I appreciate you for giving up your time."

"I didn't know that the Burgoyne Elm is 227 years."

"I hope you take other children on field trips so they can have as much fun and learn all that I have learned."

Signed "Your tree fan", this little girl wrote: "I learned a lot like where the trees were located, that some trees are named in Latin, that sycamore trees live when they are hollow."

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

Photograph by Roberta Siegel

"FAMILY DAY" MARKED THE CLIMAX OF WESTON'S COMMEMORATION OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL

Shown above is a typical scene on the Town Green last June 12th where from dawn to dusk, happiness was everywhere. See "Sidelights and Highlights" beginning on Page 3.

A VERY SPECIAL INVITATION

This issue of the BULLETIN is being sent to every resident of Weston. The directors believe that since it contains a birdseye account of the Bicentennial of our great nation, town-wide distribution will reassure the community of the ongoing fulfillment of the Society's aims. We hope we deserve the active support of every citizen, young and old, so that as one great family, Weston preserves and protects the best of its past, and promotes the endurance of patriotism and respect for its institutions. If you are not already a member and wish to support these objectives, send your check to Weston Historical Society, Inc., Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193: – $5 per person, $8 per family, $200 for life. For fuller information, call Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. at 894-4079. Through the BULLETIN which is issued four times annually, and through special mailings, you will be kept posted on our programs and projects. They embrace *all* of Weston's history, and we solicit the support of *all* of the people *all* of the time. We'll be happy to welcome *you*.

COME WITH US TO SANDWICH JANUARY 15TH

All members are invited to attend the January 15th WINTER MEETING of the Bay State Historical League in the town of Sandwich, just an hour and a half's drive from Weston via Routes 128 and 3 to the Sagamore Bridge: thence a few miles via Route 6A to the famous Sandwich Glass Museum. Here Part One of a Seminar on *"COLLECTORS AND COLLECTING"* will start at 10:30, preceded by registration and a short business meeting.

Director-Curator Nancy Merrill of the Museum will lecture on "Sandwich Glass" and conduct a tour of the galleries. Concurrently a workshop on "Primer for Local Historical Societies" will engage the attention of your officers and directors. You too, as members of Weston Historical Society, are most cordially welcome to either session.

The 12:30 Luncheon at historic and hospitable Daniel Webster Inn will be followed by Part Two of the Seminar at Heritage Plantation of Sandwich whose director, Nelson O. Price, will introduce you to the Folk Arts and Antique Carousel in the Arts and Crafts Building, and to the displays in the Military Museum of Antique Firearms, Military Miniatures, and the Flag Collection.

Deadline for reservations is January 10th, so if you or other members of your family can join us, please phone Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Liaison Chairman, at 899-1098 not later than January 9th. We hope as usual to have a good turnout of Weston members.

MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

December 1976 marked the 13th birthday of the formal founding of the Weston Historical Society! The idea of the Society was conceived in 1962-63 during the 250th Weston Celebration out of the spirit and enthusiasm of that Town Anniversary.

It has grown and matured under the devoted guidance of several of its charter members. We are indebted to them for energetic leadership and foresight.

The Society must attract the interest of a wide number of our residents from all sections of the Town; it must develop and maintain concrete projects of historic nature.

In this vein, we solicit active participation by all of our present members and earnestly, and cordially, invite other Weston residents to join our ranks in the never ending projects of research and preservation.

Several active and enlarged committees are to be appointed. We welcome nominees and volunteers: – if *you* are interested, or know of one who *is*, please tell *us*. Also, what are *your* particular interests? We are currently working on committee appointments which we hope to announce in our next issue of The BULLETIN.

Finally the Directors wish me to thank all who have served so faithfully, particularly Erlund Field who has retired after having been a director since the founding, and Edward Marshall who has relinquished the Presidency but fortunately remains on the Board.

John H. Bishop

MID-WINTER MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27th at 8:00 P.M.
in the BALLROOM
of the Josiah Smith Tavern

Eleanor P. DeLorme (Mrs. Thomas) of Milton, Mass. will present her exciting and appropriate lecture:

"THE FRENCH ARMY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION"

concerning the French Landing at Newport, the Yorktown Campaign, and their Embarkation from Boston.

Mrs. DeLorme is a Guest Lecturer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, writes for Antiques Magazine, the American Art Review, and several European Journals. She spent 12 years in France pursuing her studies, and from the beginning has been fascinated by the History of the French.

Mabel Patterson, *Program Chairman*

HIGHLIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS: HOW WESTON OBSERVED THE BICENTENNIAL

Weston can well be proud of the wholesome way in which officially and individually it commemorated the 200th birthday of our nation. Beginning with our Vol. XI, No. 1 October 1972 issue, we have steadily endeavored to record the exciting succession of events that were so admirably conducted by so many people and organizations. A review of each one, name by name, would fill a book! The part that Weston Historical Society played not only through projects and programs of its own but by also supplying active membership on the committees of practically every Bicentennial event, cannot be minimized. Gratefully and gladly we share with our readers this review of the part Weston played in commemorating the Bicentennial anniversary of the American Revolution.

The nation's Bicentennial started officially on April 19th, 1975, but as fully related in our Vol. XI, No. 4 May 1975 issue, Weston had already begun! It's no doubt too early to be sure, but we suspect that likewise Weston will, in one way or another, keep the spirit of the Bicentennial alive, even though the observance itself was declared closed a short time ago.

In the span of the Bicentennial, old man Weather ran the gamut from the sudden squall that hit the Lamson Boulder dedication on the 19th of April, 1975 to the ideal skies that blessed "Family Day" on June 12th, 1976! Large turnouts greeted every event, and the crowds that thronged over the snow-covered Town Green in the late afternoon fog of January 25th attested to the high spirit of Weston people. Space allows only scant mention of most Bicentennial projects and observances conducted by Weston organizations. Everyone *from the youngest to the oldest* had a piece of the action.

In the public schools, the curriculum at all levels began pointing toward the Bicentennial several years ago, stimulated by cooperation of many of our Society's officers and members. Events such as "Sturbridge Day", "Colonial Day", "Our American Heritage Week", the "Bicentennial Spring Concert", and "Bicentennial Week" that featured exhibits such as the "Freedom Trail" and the "Art Festival" which included lifesize, Paul Revere mounted on his horse, defy description. Enthusiastic teachers and their eager students did an outstanding job, week after week. In the townwide competition, students by the hundreds submitted truly remarkable entries in all four divisions of the arts, crafts, and literary categories.

Private school participation in Weston's Bicentennial Commemoration was also noteworthy. Meadowbrook, for example, involved the whole school with contests, plays, and trips to historic places, and in constructing a 30' by 40' map of the United States on the courtyard. Rivers School should be particularly cited for its production of an original colored sound movie "The Journal of John Howe, British Spy" which the whole Town enjoyed at its showing in the Town Hall last April 6th as a part of the Awards Night program.

Appreciation should universally be expressed to literally thousands of people, both town officials and private citizens alike, for the exceptional spirit with which everyone made his or her contributions. Let us merely list below some of the undertakings that represented so much unbounded and unmatchable energy, enthusiasm, and talent:

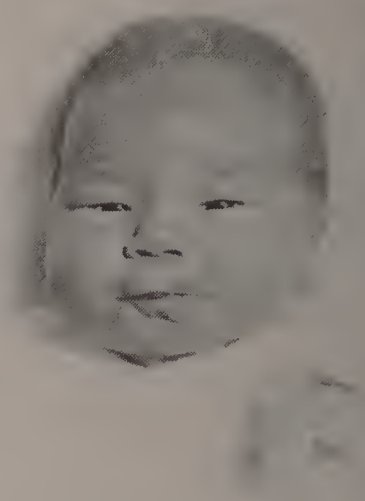
The repair and repainting of many private and public structures, the landscaping of many grounds and parks, the beautification of homes and store window displays, the significant new plantings, and the feeding and pruning of our oldest, most venerable trees, – the repainting of "Welcome to Weston" signs, the remodeling of the barns of the Josiah Smith and Golden Ball taverns, the preservation and historic marking of the 1740-1967 Burgoyne Elm's bole, the dedication of plaques on the Lamson Park boulder and the "Weston Beacon" stone, the publication of distinguished works including *"ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS", "REMEMBER THE LADIES", "WINDOWS ON WESTON",* and the second printing of *"ONCE UPON A PUNG,"* – the restoration of the view from "Sunset Corner", the many civic and college lectures of cultural and historic interest, the numerous arts and crafts displays at schools and other places including the Town Green, the faithful and fascinating exhibits that the

(Continued on Page 6)

Jan. 25, 1976

19

BICENTENNIA



"From the Youngest

"FAMILY DA

Left to Right: Top Row:

Knox Trail "Trekkers" approach W
Alison Vaughan, 4 days old on "Fa
charter member facing 100th birthd
Park; Col. Knox orders Ticonderoga

Second Row:

En route to Reviewing Stand at T
Parade Grand Marshal's personal a
Tree opposite Fiske Law Office; Pr
Town Green display; Three patriotic
Park.

Left:

Chief leads impressive array of fire
Road at corner where Major Samuel
night's gala Bicentennial Pageant in

Right:

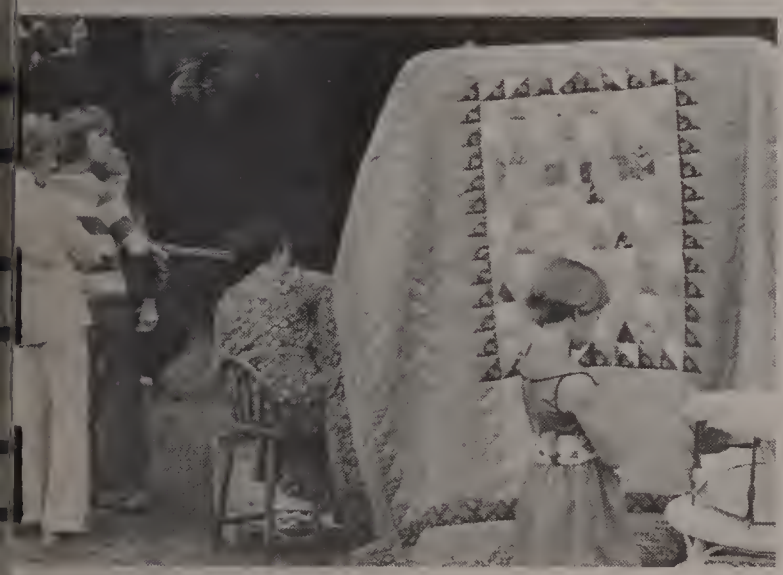
All kinds of sports provided afterno
"Family Day" say "Well Done!" to
nial Committee.

For the photographs above we extend tha
R. Morganstern, V. Harnish, J. Corre
W. Smith.

'76
IGHLIGHTS

To the Oldest"

ne 12, 1976



Town Line via the Old Connecticut Path;
, came home from the hospital; Anna Hall,
ly, watches parade from heights of Lamson
ed on Weston Town Green.

Police Honor Guard heads the procession;
y staffs in ancient cars pass Buttonwood
g Bicentennial quilt features arts and crafts
ectant generations await parade at Soldiers'

, old and new, and turns into Town House
s house once stood; The Recorders open the
auditorium.

hairman of Selectmen and Co-chairman of
n of Weston American Revolution Bicenten-

pers, H. Randle, E. Randle, G. Osmond, and

Jan. 25, 1976

 (Continued from Page 3)

librarian and his staff kept up to date and timely in the display case our Society moved from the Fiske Law Office to the public library, – these are some, but not all, of the worthwhile projects that came to the fore.

Then think of the *events* that were planned, arranged, and staged with such care, skill, and thoroughness!

Townspeople turned out on drizzly Sunday afternoon, January 25th, to welcome the hardy and personable Knox Trail "Trekkers" who acknowledged our hospitality with two gun blasts on the Town Green, one from a mortar and one from the cannon. Nine horse vans transported the teams to their private stables, and a cheerful log fire on the grounds west of the Josiah Smith Tavern lighted up the scene. Inside the tavern, our Society hosted and toasted the indomitable marchers at a reception and dinner after which our guests, weary from the rugged "Re-enactment Journey" all the way from Ticonderoga, "bedded down" for the night on the wall-to-wall carpeting of the Tavern's barn. Before the party left for Cambridge in the morning, 30 busloads of youngsters came to the Green from our schools while some members of the "Trek" made brief appearances at the high school.

Beginning 8 days later, Weston's gala Bicentennial Musical gave seven sensational performances of "Ben Franklin in Paris". With cast and chorus exceeding fifty talented Westonians, all backed by a committee of 200, it was a thrilling success. Once again Weston had brought forth its best and brightest stars! Mention has already been made of the activity that was proceeding apace at our schools, class after class, building to building. History was in the air, and April 6th was another happy evening at the Town Hall when it was filled with parents and friends to examine the exhibits and witness the awarding of prizes to the talented winners of the second Bicentennial School and College competition.

But the climax of the entire Bicentennial, and perhaps of the more than 3 centuries during which people have lived here, came to a head Saturday, June 12th. Long awaited, it became Weston's greatest day, and it marked the culmination of more than two years of diligent planning and incredible preparations by hundreds of top-talented residents all pulling together as one great happy family. From every corner of the town came old-timers and newcomers, eager to embrace the concept of an oldfashioned town-wide family picnic in the Town Center. For two years they met month after month, then week after week, to plan a "day" when, despite the town having increased sixfold in population, we still would crowd around the Green to have an oldtime family party that offered joy and action to every member of the community from the youngest babe to the oldest inhabitant.

So here came "The Day!" Two January concerts by Weston's renowned concert pianist, Arthur Mackenzie, had provided funds for extra features the cost of which, the committees agreed, should and would not be borne by our purposely modest budget. Generous donations of materials and skills by uncounted fellow townsmen also provided a day that will never fade in memory.

The ringing of all the church bells at 9 o'clock announced the advent of "Bicentennial *Family Day*." Simultaneously an ecumenical family church service was conducted in a packed Town Hall where all faiths participated and the Declaration of Independence was solemnly read. At ten o'clock we witnessed a most impressive flag raising ceremony when one of the world's largest flags, 15' by 25', made famous for having flown from the ill-fated Battleship "Missouri", was hoisted in military dignity by a crew of 8 local veterans, to the top of perhaps the tallest single-piece wooden flagpole in America, almost 100 feet above the ground. With a brisk and cheerful breeze to support it, "Old Glory" warmed our hearts with gladness.

The colossal parade, executed in grand manner with perfect precision, was over 2 miles long and would have done credit to Broadway! In true Weston style, though, marchers seemed to outnumber watchers in some stages of the parade's line of march! Deliberately and determinedly the committee had insisted in carrying out Weston's Bicentennial slogan: "In Weston, For Weston, and By Weston!"

The reviewing stand in front of the Town Hall was packed to capacity. After the Grand Marshal and his staff arrived and took their positions, loud applause steadily

greeted the appearance of marchers and floats as follows: American Legion Post 214, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Weston High School Band, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, Waltham's American Legion Band, Fort Devens' Marching Unit and Color Guard, Lexington Minute Men, 26th Supply and Transport Battalion, 26th Infantry Division Band; Headquarters/Company A, 726th Maintenance Battalion, 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division, the Lincoln Minute Men, the Sudbury Fife and Drum Corps, the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute Men, – Sir Galahad – Natick Commandery No. 33, Knights Templar, – Kennedy Junior High School Band of Waltham, the Aleppo Temple Shriners Uniformed Units, the Massachusetts National Lancers, Weston's Green Power float, the Hallamore Clydesdale 3-Horse Unicorn Hitch, the Weston Garden Club float, the Weston Pony Club, the Weston Children's Public Library float, the Girl Scout float, the Weston Boosters float, the Weston 4-H Club, the Weston Recycling Program float, the Weston Drama Workshop's covered wagon, the League of Women Voters float, the Waverly Post No. 1272 V.F.W. band, many antique cars, the Weston Fire Department and guest apparatus of colorful magnitude from Massachusetts and Connecticut communities, the Stuart Highlanders Pipe Band, and last but not least, the Children's Bicycle Unit!

Following picnic lunches on Lamson Park and elsewhere, the town seemed to converge upon the Town Green where all sorts of activity created a scene that can't be described. Here were Senior Citizens in Colonial costumes, two parade bands alternating to delight the crowd, Weston's popular "Westonnaires" singing lightly and lustily, the Chamber Music Society of Lower Newton Street strumming its tunes, and the "Vagabonds" performing dramatic dances of the 1651-1790 era. Also arts and crafts displays of appeal and character adorned the Town Green while, across the Post Road on the Josiah Smith lawn, were exhibits of the Field School fifth grade's Sturbridge Day program.

All the while "Open House" throughout the afternoon attracted large crowds at 3 nearby historic landmarks, – Josiah Smith Tavern, Isaac Fiske Law Office, and Golden Ball Tavern. Meanwhile sporting events in varying degrees of excellence provided much enjoyment for hordes of participants and spectators, young, middle-aged, and old. In mid-afternoon, invited guests were bused to Sanderson Hill for the dedication of the Revolutionary War Beacon Plaque.

Picnic suppers on and off the Green were the vogue as the evening shadows began to fall. A delicious supper at the High School cafeteria fed the rest of the multitude, followed by a tremendously successful and triumphant evening of entertainment in the high school's jam-packed auditorium. Entitled "The Bicentennial Pageant", it featured in rapid succession music by a talented group in Colonial garb, a reenactment of the stormy and history-making town meeting of June 18, 1776, concert tunes by the High School Stage Group, and a spectacular initial performance by the Weston Chorus, – a group of 125 magnificent voices that made the welkin ring!

The awarding of citations to various individuals brought "Family Day" to its brilliant close. It was the last event on the calendar of the Weston American Revolution Bicentennial Committee whose final review of the Bicentennial years should be of lasting inspiration and historical value, in the forthcoming Town Report.

H. G. T.

IN OUR NEXT ! ! !

The March issue of the BULLETIN will feature a most interesting article prepared by Messrs. Brenton H. Dickson and Homer C. Lucas entitled *"THE REMODELLING OF THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN 1800."*

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last issue, we have lost two of our most faithful charter members, Mrs. William W. Gallagher, Jr. and Mr. Walter Trumbull. The contributions each made to our town were generous and sincere. We extend our sympathy to their families.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Officers

President: John H. Bishop
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson

Directors

John H. Bishop '77, Brenton H. Dickson, 3rd '78, Roy L. Dickson '78, Donald D. Douglass '77, Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '78, Homer C. Lucas '77, Edward W. Marshall '79, Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79, Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson '79, and Harold G. Travis '78.

Membership

Annual dues: $5.00 per person, $8.00 per family
Life Memberships $200
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions and Bequests to the Society are welcomed.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Editor of the *BULLETIN:* Harold G. Travis 899-4515
Additional copies may be obtained at 50 cents each by phoning Mrs. Bonner 893-4346.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.
P. O. BOX 343
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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1977 Vol. XIII, No. 3

This was the First Parish Church of Weston. It was the second building used by the congregation and was built in 1721. Remodelled in 1800, a Paul Revere bell weighing 997 pounds was installed in 1841, and that was replaced with the present church in 1888. The 176-year-old bell is still in use and hopefully it will continue to be for many years to come.

THE REMODELLING OF THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN 1800

Brenton H. Dickson and Homer C. Lucas

Until 1825 town government controlled the established Congregational churches in Massachusetts. As in other towns the ministers of the First Parish Church in Weston were chosen at town meetings. At Weston's annual town meeting in March the amount of their salary was voted and arrangements made for the year's supply of firewood. At the same meeting a keeper was chosen and his salary determined. Frequently there would be an

(Continued on Page 7)

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society has received as a gift from H. Bentley Crouch, a collection of prints and negatives of the construction of Route 128 in Weston and Waltham, and of the Toll Road (Massachusetts Turnpike) in Weston. They are most interesting, and we thank Mr. Crouch for his generosity.

Weston's "FAMILY DAY" will be held on June 11th. Plans are under way for the Society to cooperate with the Committee in utilizing the Josiah Smith Tavern and the Isaac Fiske Law Office, as we help to keep the spirit of the recent Bicentennial at peak level.

Thanks to the many people who turned out at the Tavern on December 31st to assist in our complimentary mailing of the January BULLETIN to every family in town. Its contents record the stirring events connected with the Town's commemoration of the American Revolution's Bicentennial. New memberships are resulting from this mailing and we aim to enjoy the support of every Weston resident in our worthwhile work.

J. H. B.

THE START OF WESTON'S DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Shown above is Officer George Faber at the close of World War I in the act of presenting a ticket for speeding to a subdued motorist. Behind our guardian of law and order may be seen the original Lamson Tailor Shop that had just been moved to its present hillside location diagonally opposite the Bay Bank building when the new Town Hall was about to be completed and the Town Green landscaped to its present scenic slope and scope starting at the Post Road and extending up to the front steps of the Town Hall and up to Lamson Park on the west.

Behind the 1917 Model T Ford Runabout can be seen an old house that also belonged to the Lamson family. Its cellar hole is still visible today. When the house was condemned as unsafe and ordered destroyed in the late 1930's, the property was purchased by the Vestry of St. Peter's Church who a quarter of a century later conveyed its Gothic structure and this adjoining land to the First Church of Christ, Scientist. This original Episcopal Church, obscured by the house, had been built in 1924 on land given by Col. Lamson's widow, and when a larger building was required to cope with the Parish's postwar growth, the present structure facing Children's Park and the rising sun on a knoll a quarter of a mile east on the Post Road, was erected on land donated likewise by a Unitarian, the late Charles O. Richardson whose three daughters are members of Weston Historical Society.

WESTON'S TOWN CENTER ALWAYS A DRAINAGE PROBLEM

Back in 1641 a dictionary of that time recorded that "The *Sewers* are Commissioners that sit by vertue of statutes, to enquire of all nuisances and offenses committed by the stopping of rivers." A legal description of "Commission of Sewers" – explained that it was "a royal commission issued to a number of persons (hence called Commissioners of Sewers) constituting them a temporary court with authority for the repair and maintenance of wells, ditches, banks, gutters, sewers, gotes, causeys, bridges, streams, and other defences by the coasts of the sea and marsh ground liable to inundation from sea and rivers."

A member of our original Research Committee, Mrs. Richard Albrecht, recently espied on Page 366 of MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES, VOLUME I, the following petition dated at Weston 215 years before our fellow citizens in formal Town Meeting January 15, 1977 were deliberating still on the same inherent problem of drainage in the "middle of the Town . . ." As it would be almost illegible in spots due to its age, we have had it reset in modern type for easier reading.

"Province of the) To His Excellency Francis Bernard Esquire. Captain General and Com-
Massachusetts Bay) mander in Cheif in and over His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts Bay – and to the Honorable His Majesty's Council of said Province--------

"Humbly shews the subscribers being the Major part of the owners and proprietors of a Tract of Meadow Land lying near the Middle of the Town of Weston in the County of Middlesex and Adjoining to the Great Country road. That the said Meadows are unprofitable and of small benefit to the owners by reason of several Banks and Stoppages in the course of the Brook that runs Thro the same which may easily be removed and thereby the said meadows may be drained and become profitable.----------

"Therefore your Petitioners Humbly request your Excellency and Honours to grant a Commission of Sewers to Some Suitable Gentlemen for the clearing and removing of the Banks and Obstructions in the passages of the Waters running Thro the said Meadows---- and also to Cut Such other Sluices as Shall be necessary effectively to Drain them at the Proprietors Costs--- as in duty Bound will ever pray."

Weston September 4, 1761

(s) Elisha Jones
Benjamin Harrington
Nathaniel Goddard
Isaac Harrington
Aaron Jones
Thomas Rand
Josiah Smith"

Those 8 neighbors found a peaceful way of getting their difficulties resolved and settled, at least for the nonce. In the extreme lower left corner, the following notation appears:

"Advised
Chambers Russell
Edmund Trowbridge
Captain Jno. Brown"

Now coming 129 years closer to the present day, though less apropos currently, an article in the Waltham Sun Herald of July 22, 1890 informed its readers "How The Work Was Done in China" under the heading: **DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE.** Therein we learn that "in that country, men carry pails on a yoke from house to house in all cities. Their pails are moving substitutes for sewers. . . . What they gather in the city they sell to farmers and gardners in the country. . . . It is said that typhoid fever is unknown there."

H. G. T.

WHO HAS A COPY OF THIS SPEECH?

Just a few weeks before Weston turned out in full force to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Town's incorporation, Memorial Day exercises were held as usual on Memorial Day, May 30, 1913. An address, *"The War That We Commemorate,"* was delivered by the renowned author, reformer, journalist, and abolitionist, Franklin Benjamin Sanborn. No account of Weston's traditional observance of Memorial Day appeared in local papers, but the Committee of C. M. Eaton, School Superintendent, Francis B. Ripley, oldest Civil War survivor, and John H. Stone paid $12.50 for flags, $5.00 for 50 geraniums, $69.50 for a band, and $25 for Mr. Sanborn's talk. Call the Editor if you know where a copy can be secured: 899-4515.

A SORDID PRELUDE TO MABEL'S MURDER?

For years we've been delving into the sea of material, confusing and contradictory, that is found in old newspapers and in the two volume proceedings of the trial and conviction of Charles Louis Tucker for the murder of Mabel Page on March 31, 1904 in her bedroom on South Avenue, Weston just 1.4 miles from his home at 58 Bourne Street, Auburndale. "AFTERMATH OF A MURDER" which appeared in our Vol. XII, No. 1 issue of October 1975, is one of several potential sequels. In our breast springs the eternal hope that we can excite younger students to join in digging up all phases of Weston's fascinating and forgotten past,—in cataloguing it in proper categories, and in presenting it in fair and balanced perspective. Here follows one new angle that has emerged from a dozen years of such research. Others hang "in the wing", pending fuller documentation.

After the judge sentenced Charlie Tucker to die in the electric chair "during the week of June 10, 1906", a total of 155,000 citizens signed a petition urging clemency. Governor Curtis Guild denied the appeal and was promptly supported by a telegram from President Theodore Roosevelt. Even so, we continued to wonder, why should such an impressive number of people have cried that "this nice young man of 22" could not possibly have perpetrated so coldblooded a crime? Why too should so many others in comparable zeal have kept casting innuendoes on his character? We set out to see what we could learn about him.

He was born in Boston on April 18, 1881 and in recent years had held many jobs there, including Thorp and Martin's stationery store, and as elevator boy and baggage clerk at South Station. He was married on New Year's Day, 1903 in Waltham to Grace Emily Osborne, a native of that city and a popular worker in the plate department of the watch factory. Exactly 3 months and 22 days later, and 3 days after her husband's 22nd birthday, the front page of the Waltham Free Press-Tribune headlined her tragic death on Tuesday April 21st in a drowning accident on the Charles River. As related by the distraught husband, the only witness, we read how they had decided to take a noon hour canoe trip upstream from Robinson's Boathouse at Riverside where he was then employed. They reached a bend in the river when she suggested that she would like to paddle. This entailed changing seats, and the canoe tipped over, throwing them into the icy water.

He was a good swimmer but his wife could not swim at all. The shore was 50 feet away and holding her with one hand while clutching the half submerged canoe with the other, he unsuccessfully battled the swift current for 15 or 20 minutes until finally his strength gave out, and he watched in horror as she was swept under and away. Upon reaching shore he raced along the river's edge to the boathouse where he made his terrible experience known. Both Newton and Metropolitan District police spent the whole afternoon grappling without success in the places indicated by Tucker, but it was not until evening that her brother, Herbert Osborne, located her body some distance away in four feet of water.

Rev. L. W. Staples of Waltham's Methodist Church conducted private services for her at the home of her parents on Robbins Street where he had married them less than four months before. When arrested not quite a year later for Mabel Page's murder hardly a mile from the scene of his own wife's death, Tucker was subjected to a trial that was to last over two years. Finally the jury convicted him and he was electrocuted in Charlestown on the 12th of June 1906. By pure coincidence and without significance or any knowledge that it was so doing, we note that the Committee that staged Weston's great "FAMILY DAY" last June which marked the climax of the Town's commemoration of the American Revolution Bicentennial, innocently had selected the 70th anniversary of Charlie Tucker's death, bringing to this writer's mind three more adjectives: – ironic . . . irrelevant . . . interesting!

H. G. T.

NOTHING FRIVOLOUS ABOUT APRIL FOOLS' DAY 1904

Here a reporter and policeman somberly eat lunch at roadside outside the Page house on South Avenue as they await the medical examiner's report and other developments.

THE REMODELLING OF THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH IN 1800

(Continued from Page 1)

article in the warrant dealing with the "Repare" or the "Seeting of the Meeting Hous" or a plan to find more ways of increasing the seating capacity in order to accommodate the growing population whose attendance at church was compulsory.

Article 7 in the warrant for a meeting held on the third of March, 1755, read as follows: "To here the Petition of Sundry of the Inhabitants of the Said Town praying that they would grant Liberty to any that will . . . Build Pews in the meeting house where the two hind Seats now are, or in any other place, as the Town Shall think fitt and appropriate the money or any part thereof to Build a porch on the fore-side of Said House, and Stairs in it to Go into the Gallaries." This article "Pased in the Negetive."

Through the years all manner of proposals were made for repair, or alteration to the church and many of them were carried out. For example, in 1761 the town paid 14 shillings, seven pence, "for stuff and Labour to Repare the Ruff (roof) of the Meeting House." In 1768 the town voted to reconsider and build "Another Seet in the Women's Side Galerey and to build a Pew or Pues all a Long the Length of the women's Side Galerey."

Then, on October 7, 1799, the town meeting appointed a committee of Weston's more prominent men to make recommendations for "Alterations in the publick Meeting-House, and puting the same into a State of decent repair." The committee members were Artemas Ward, Jr., Capt. Isaac Jones, Joseph Russell, Capt. Jonathan Fisk, Thomas Rand, Deacon Isaac Hobbs, John Slack, Ebenezer Hobbs, and Caleb Hayward. It was evident that a major renovation of the church was contemplated. About a month later another town meeting was called to receive the report of the committee. This report was very comprehensive and recommended the following changes:

1. That a tower with a cupola with accommodations for hanging a bell be raised at the west end of the house.
2. That a low porch be erected in front (west end?) and one at the eastern end, rising high enough to furnish communications with the gallery.
3. That the inside of the house be painted.
4. That the brackets cut and all interstices in the posts which are not covered be filled with mortar and well covered with white wash.

5. That one of the (double) doors at each end of the meeting house be shut up.
6. That two pews be built in each corner where the gallery stairs now are, first making an adjustment with Mr. Whitney & the heirs of Mr. Coburn, deceased, of the terms upon which they will take the space which will be gained by shutting up the said doors and relinquish part of the ground they now occupy.
7. That a row of pews in the gallery from the right hand of the avenue from the tower into the westerly gallery round on the front of the meeting house until it meets the avenue from the porch at the easterly end of the said house, be built.
8. That the residue of seats which shall remain in the front gallery be converted into a pew for the accommodation of the singers.
9. That the said pews be sold and the proceeds of the sale be applied to defray the expenses of said repairs and alterations.

The town approved the report and appointed a building committee headed by Artemas Ward, Jr. who was about to serve his third term as chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Six months later the town was asked in a special town meeting whether to erect a "Steple" on a tower instead of turning a cupola as voted earlier. The steeple was approved provided the differences in cost would be raised by subscription.

The project became community wide and involved at least thirty families. Nathaniel Bemis and his son, Lot, were responsible for the new underpinning, Joseph Smith for stone, and Ephraim Livermore for mason work.

Piper and Wares furnished the "riging to raise the tower" and charged $24.50 for their services. Major David Merriam, Lot Merriam, Nathan Childs and Thomas Rand were responsible for the tower and spire, the tower being strong enough to support a 997 pound Paul Revere bell which would be installed a year later. Goodwin also removed the stairs, shingled the roof and lowered the windows. Goulds, Dudleys and Joseph Russell finished the tower and the porches. They also built pews and did much work by the day, and "after deducting the bords and nails taken by them to make three coffins" presented a bill for $91.58.0.

Isaac Lamson presented a bill for boards, shingles, nails, lime and supplied nine gallons of West India Rum to improve the enthusiasm of the workmen.

Vose and Makepeace presented a bill for $10.50 for "the electrick rod." Although Benjamin Franklin invented lightning rods near the middle of the eighteenth century, this is probably one of the early records of their being installed in Massachusetts.

Aaron Whittemore carted a variety of things including a hogshead of lime from Boston, and Mr. Bates a barrel of fish oil. David Brackett charged $72.20 for iron work and Eliakim Morse $168.11 for sheet lead. At least 25,000 feet of joists, clapboards and other timber were brought in by sixteen or more men. There were hinges and latches for pew doors, white lead and turpentine for paint; – lampblack, gold leaf, and all kinds of nails, screws and tacks.

Caleb Hayward, one of the members of Artemas Ward's building committee, was authorized to negotiate for a weathervane for the steeple and he ordered it from one Ebenezer Lemon of Boston. When it was completed, July 1, 1800, Hayward's father-in-law, Isaac Jones, carted it to Weston. Apparently the "Vane and Ball" did not meet with the town's approval because we find that W. C. Hunneman was paid $53.34 for a "copper Vane, ball, diamond, et cetera" in 1805. Meanwhile Mr. Lemon filed suit against Caleb Hayward for the $40.00 he owed on account of the first weathervane, and the court decided in Lemon's favor. Hayward then attempted to collect $40.00 from the town but it was not until eighteen years later that the town finally voted in town meeting to compensate him for his loss.

One aspect of such a remodelling project is the large amount of "refuse stuff" left over. The building committee decided to get rid of it all in one day and at the same time make some money by selling it at auction. They divided the scraps of old lumber and other materials into "lots." Here are some examples of the results chosen at random:

Lot no. 1 went to Artemas Ward @ 6/3 per hundred wt. It probably consisted of fragments of lumber.

Lot of old lumber at N.E. corner of Meeting House went to Deacon Samuel Fisk @ 12 shillings.
Lot of same north of Meeting House to Abraham Hews @ 20 shillings.
Lot of same N.W. of M. House to Capt. Isaac Jones at 3 shillings.
1 work bench to Rev. Sam'l Kendall @ six shillings.
All of the old bricks to Lot Bemis, – 160 brick 2/3 per hundred.

The net cost of remodelling was much less than the gross outlay of $3059.11. The old pews sold for $1066.00, the auction of "refuse stuff" brought $35.50, and the town was reimbursed for painting the pews by their owners, for a saving of $35.00, and these along with other savings made the net cost to the town only $1430.76.

At the time of the renovation of the church, the change over from the English monetary system to the American decimal system of dollars and cents was nearly completed. The new federal law establishing the system had been approved April 2, 1792 but before the law could take effect a mint had to be built and equipped in Philadelphia, manpower found, and gold and silver located, stamped into money and distributed. The average citizen was slow in adapting himself to the new form of money. On the Weston meeting house project the English system of pounds, shillings and pence was used in many of the bills presented to the town by a number of prominent Weston men. Some of them stated the equivalent in American money at the end, underneath the total given in English money. Here is a portion of the bill of John Stimson:

The town of Weston to John Stimson Jr., Dr.,

To going to Boston 7 times at 15/	£ 5- 5-0
To going to Watertown for stuff	4-6
To making six 12 panel doors at 33/ per pece	9-18-0
To fitting in and hanging 12 doors at 2/per door	1- 4-0
To putting on 7 Bolts at 6d	0- 3-6
After a long list of items we find: Total	£44-10-3
Equal to	$148-38-

The transactions at the "stuff auction" were entirely in the older more familiar system. Roughly the pound was equivalent to $3.33. However, in its reports to the town the building committee used the new decimal system but by force of habit maintained their former custom of three columns with places for dollars, cents and mills. Here are some examples.

To Samuel Torrey of Boston, the sum of	$90..65..0
To John Rand	19..50..0
To John Stimson	148..38..0
To Capt. Isaac Jones	31..16..0

In the treasurer's book for the Town of Weston the change over was made as of the annual meeting of March, 1796. It seems simple to us to write $148.38, but to the man who throughout his life had thought in terms of pounds, shillings and pence it was not so simple. In spite of its greater simplicity we are likely to have similar trouble converting to the metric system.

We have only one reference to the Paul Revere bell in the minutes of the Weston town meetings. On March 9, 1801 it was voted to appropriate the amount of money "necessary to make up the deficiency of the Sum raised by Subscription to purchase a bell for the Publick meeting house." From the records of the renovation of the church it was clear that the tower was a very special part of the renovation. Important plans were under way but we have no copy of the list of subscribers, no vote of the town to purchase an important Paul Revere bell, – no vote of the church to contract for such a bell, – no money was paid by the town to make up such a deficit in subscriptions. It seems clear that all of the money needed was raised by subscriptions, so what are the facts?

We have Revere receipts which tell us certain important things. The original bill is dated March 28, 1801. The bell weighed 997 pounds and the price was $443.12 with a credit for $72.89 for the old "small bell, weight 164 pounds." We wondered about the number of cents in each amount and we discovered that the price of both bells was exactly the same, – namely, $0.444444 per pound. If one of the decimal points is re-

moved the result is not correct for either the large bell or the smaller one. The small bell must have been of good quality or Paul Revere would not have offered nearly 45 cents a pound for it.

Ebenezer Hobbs, chairman of the selectmen, made the first payment of $150 in August. He must also have been chairman of the subscription committee. The receipt is signed by R. Revere who was presumably Mrs. Revere whose name was Rachel. In December the amount of $171 was paid and the remainder soon after. Both receipts are signed "Paul Revere and Son" and are in Paul's handwriting. Later the town paid local blacksmith David Brackett for a "counter balance" for the bell, and Ephraim Livermore six dollars for hemp for a bell rope. Presumably the rope was made at a local rope walk without charge to the town.

What an important and long lasting contribution was made to our town by our forefathers who provided us with such a fine bell, now in its 176th year!

IN MEMORIAM

With deep regret we record herein the deaths of Elizabeth Campbell (Mrs. Kenneth) Wood and Mr. John J. Lawless. Both were faithful and loyal members who will be sorely missed but gratefully remembered. "Jack" delivered the Memorial Day address on the steps of the Town Hall three years ago, culminating over seventy years of devotion to his and our great nation.

Mrs. Wood and her mother were both charter members of this Society, and it is suggested that Page 4 of our January 1976, Vol. XII, No. 2, issue be re-read. They were directly descended from the Rev. Samuel Kendal and his wife, the former Abigail Williams whose home on Concord Road is one of Weston's most prized landmarks. Mrs. Wood's mother was the donor, it will be recalled, of the framed sample of Sophia Kendal Marshall's handwriting in 1805 that hangs in the Society's rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern. Mother and daughter took great interest during the Bicentennial in the re-enactment of the Knox Trail when it reached Weston on Sunday afternoon, January 25th, 1976. At the time of her death we were still engaged in correspondence with Mrs. Wood trying to establish her relationship to the General through her great grandmother, Elizabeth Marshall Knox who lived until her death in 1905 at 334 Boston Post Road, Weston.

Membership

Annual Dues: $5.00 per person, $8.00 per family

Life Memberships $200

Gift Memberships are suggested

Contributions to the Society are always welcome.

Checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc.
and mailed to P. O. Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193

President: John H. Bishop 894-5408

Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

For extra copies at 50c each, phone Mrs. Bonner at 893-4346

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1977 Vol. XIII, No. 4

HALLMARKS AND LANDMARKS OF WESTON

For three and two tenths miles from Stony Brook at Route 128 on the edge of Waltham to the Wayland line, the old Boston Post Road, with two noticeable exceptions, follows quite accurately its original course. The scene above, almost equidistant from those two town lines, shows the Burgoyne Elm's preserved bole with the George Washington Memorial Highway marker which was placed there in 1932 at dedicatory exercises that are recalled beginning on Page 3.

Within a quarter of a mile, much of Weston's early history evolved and centered. Across the street is the site of our earliest-recorded tavern which belonged to Thomas Woolson and later to Samuel Baldwin. Diagonally to the right and left respectively from the elm may be seen today the homes of Parson Woodward and Isaac Fiske, both in the best of hands. As we look toward Boston on the south side of the road, we see Farmers' Burial Ground. Just out of the range of this picture's right are our headquarters, the Isaac Fiske Law Office, and Central Cemetery.

Half a mile apart on the same side of the road. and flanking this spot by approximately the same distance, are two well-known taverns, The Josiah Smith Tavern facing the Town Green and now owned by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, was the Liberty Men's favorite hangout. The Golden Ball Tavern, two tenths of a mile west of the elm, was an hospitable and popular haven for Tories during the Revolution and is nationally famous for its authentic preservation.

Truly the above picture, taken in the heart of Weston's very own *History Trail,* reminds us that we owe unceasing diligence to protecting the rich heritage for which, through good fortune and equally the good planning of our forefathers, we are today's grateful custodians.

THE MEETING HOUSE

The only known picture of the 1721 Meeting House as shown on the front page of The BULLETIN'S last issue, was drawn by a weathervane maker who has obviously overemphasized the importance of his craft. A belfry was added to the building in 1801 to accommodate a bell made by Paul Revere, but on no such grandiose scale as the weathervane maker would have us believe. In 1841 a Greek Revival church was built to replace the 1721 Meeting House.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will notice on Page 8 the list of committees that have been appointed and are actively at work. It is expected that our next issue in October will contain a full schedule for the fall-winter season of 1977-1978. A new committee, to be known as "Activities-Research" is being organized. It will investigate and determine ideas and projects which hopefully will have broad interest for the members. Your own suggestions will be most gratefully received.

Weston Historical Society will of course be cooperating with the local "Family Day" that is scheduled for June 11th. The Isaac Fiske 1805 Law Office and the Josiah Smith 1757 Tavern will be open that afternoon. Our Curator, Mrs. Fraser, is arranging a "Fashion Show", male and female, featuring costumes that are owned by the Society. If you would like to volunteer as a model, please contact her at 894-2872.

Our Charter Anniversary Dinner on April 27th marked another high spot in the Society's history. The opportunity to meet our guest of honor, Louis L. Tucker, and to hear him recall his experiences during the recent Bicentennial activities in New York and other states, turned out to be a real privilege. The fact that he lives next door in Wellesley and has succeeded our own fellow charter member, Stephen T. Riley, as Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, oldest in America, added to the significance of his address.

The innovative Sherry Reception to new members which preceded the dinner gave all of us an opportunity to greet them and each other in a warm and neighborly manner. We should particularly welcome into *Life* Membership little Alison Vaughan who was born four days before *Bicentennial Family Day 1976!* May she be able, after a long and happy life, to report to the Society on what is current today when the Nation celebrates its 300th birthday in 2076.

John H. Bishop

PEDESTRIAN IDENTIFIED

The picture on Page 3 of the last BULLETIN is a copy of a 76-year-old photograph in a Fiske Family album, and bears the inscription " *'GUZZY' January 1901*". "Guzzy" was the family nickname for Mr. George Fiske who, with his brothers Charles, Edward, and Andrew Fiske, all Weston residents, was a grandson of Isaac Fiske. George Fiske died March 5, 1902.

What a pitty that all old photographs and drawings are not so carefully identified. For the sake of posterity it would be well to draw a lesson from this, and label all yours before it is too late.

B. H. D.

A WELCOME MESSAGE FROM BUFFALO, WYOMING

"The *BULLETIN* sent out by the Society is just great! . . . Life out here is busy and I am content to be a busy retiree. . . . I look across a wide stretch of field where horses graze to the mountains, ever changing in their beauty,—a peaceful scene which quite suits me." – (s) Emily.

(Charter member Mrs. Pierpont Blair, longtime Wayland resident.)

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BICENTENNIAL REENACTMENT IN WESTON 45 YEARS AGO

On Thursday morning, June 9, 1932, the people of Weston turned out en masse to welcome at the Burgoyne Elm on the Boston Post Road, a colorful Cavalcade, headed by Laurence H. Hart of Boston who took the part of George Washington. It was on the last leg of a 3 day—115 mile—journey that had started at Agawam on the west bank of the Connecticut River, passing through Springfield, Worcester, Sudbury, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown, en route to Boston. The following excerpts from local papers seem to exude the spirit of "Family Day 1976" when the oldfashioned and genuine Weston tradition rose once more to the occasion, as of yore.

First let us quote from the Waltham News Tribune of June 10, 1932 as follows:

"WESTON GREETS CAVALCADE IN SHADE OF THE BURGOYNE ELM

"Beneath the Burgoyne Elm and beside the little old office once owned and used by Squire Isaac Fiske, Washington stopped yesterday to greet the townspeople who were gathered to meet him. Here the tablet to mark the route of the Washington Memorial Highway is attached to a huge boulder, making one of the most natural and attractive settings on the route. At shortly after 11 o'clock, a company of Colonial gentlemen with long velvet coats with lace ruffles and wearing three-cornered hats on their powdered wigs, rode up the road to greet Washington as he entered the town from Wayland.

"In the group were L. Manlius Sargent, Gardiner Fiske, Harold B. Willis, Charles M. Squibb, Arthur Moore, and William Remick. A little maid, Frances Audrey Kenney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace S. Kenney, dressed in quaint costume of the early days, presented Washington with a rose bud, as in the long ago Hannah Gowen had presented a like flower to General Washington when he passed through town. In the group in Colonial costumes, standing beneath the Burgoyne Elm were Mr. David Lane and his daughter Betty Lane Whittemore, Mr. Edward B. Field, who improvised Parson Woodward, Miss Anna Hall, Mr. Joseph Seabury, Mrs. Louis M. Briggs, Mrs. Carolyn E. Burrage, the Misses Case, Mrs. John Boyd, Miss Mary Burrage, and Miss Mabel Burrage, Mrs. Edward P. Ripley, Mrs. Harry Warren, Mrs. Erlund Field, and Mrs. Emma Travis Carey.

"After Washington had gone, the Cavalcade with Governor Ely drove up and Hon. B. Loring Young presented the tablet in the name of the town, which was accepted by the Governor. 500 school children, accompanied by the school orchestra, sang songs which Washington knew. One pleasing feature was the marine and soldier standing on guard on each side of the boulder. A Boy Scout and a Girl Scout in costume unveiled the tablet . . . Among the young people in attendance on horseback were Miss Polly Brewer, Miss Hope Hubbard, Miss Martha Seabury, Miss Edith Seabury, and Miss Nancy Pushee."

Equally long was the article that appeared in the Boston Evening Transcript of June 9, 1932 and noted:

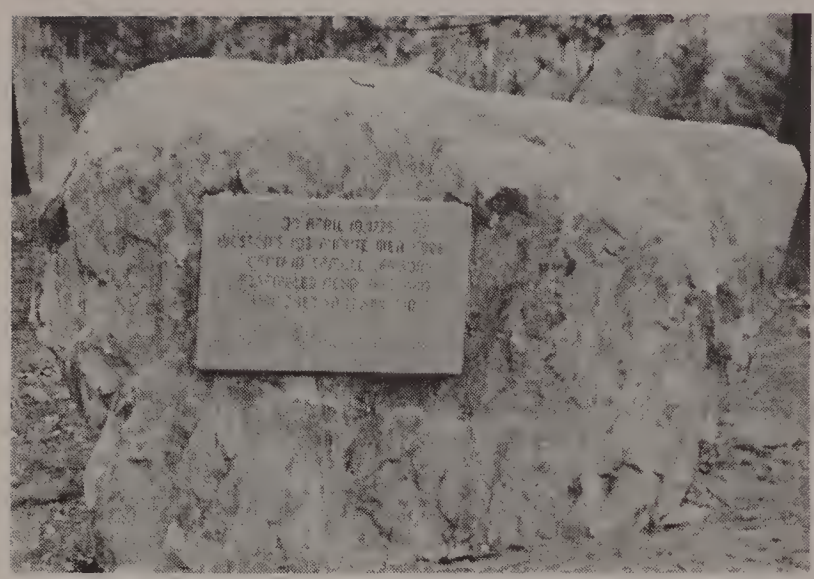
"It is George Washington's last day on his presidential tour through Massachusetts, riding on his white horse with an official party. Clocks were striking 11 as he came galloping into the town of Weston. . . . Under the huge elm which has historic Revolutionary connection, he stopped in the middle of the road and saluted the Selectmen. . . . Under the great elm which throws its long branches over the road, General Burgoyne's captured army camped while on its way as prisoners after the Battle of Saratoga Oct. 17, 1777. Because of this it has been christened 'The Burgoyne Elm' and here today a stone tablet was unveiled in honor of George Washington, marking the Weston section of the George Washington Memorial Highway which is being dedicated by the three day tour through the State.

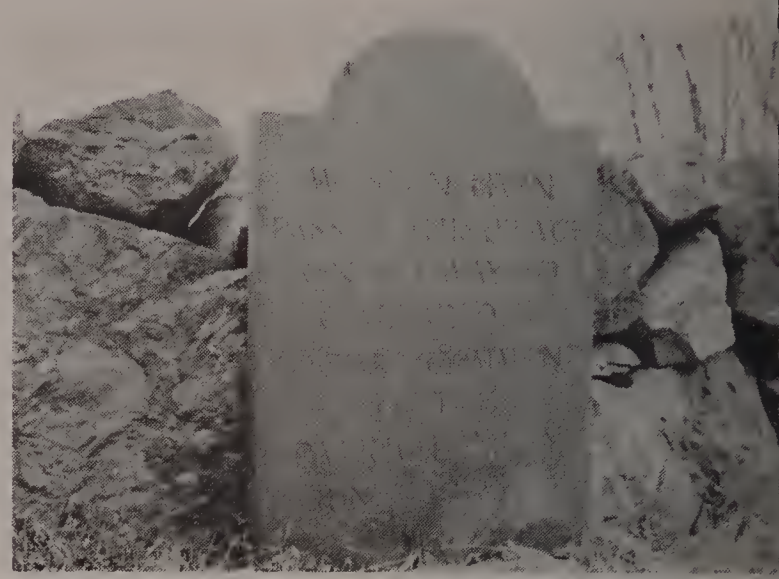
"Following President Washington was a troop of mounted Indians, and a long line of horsemen in colonial uniforms, also numerous automobiles carrying the official party which included representatives of the governor, American Legion men, Lexington Minute Men, and many Colonial dames.

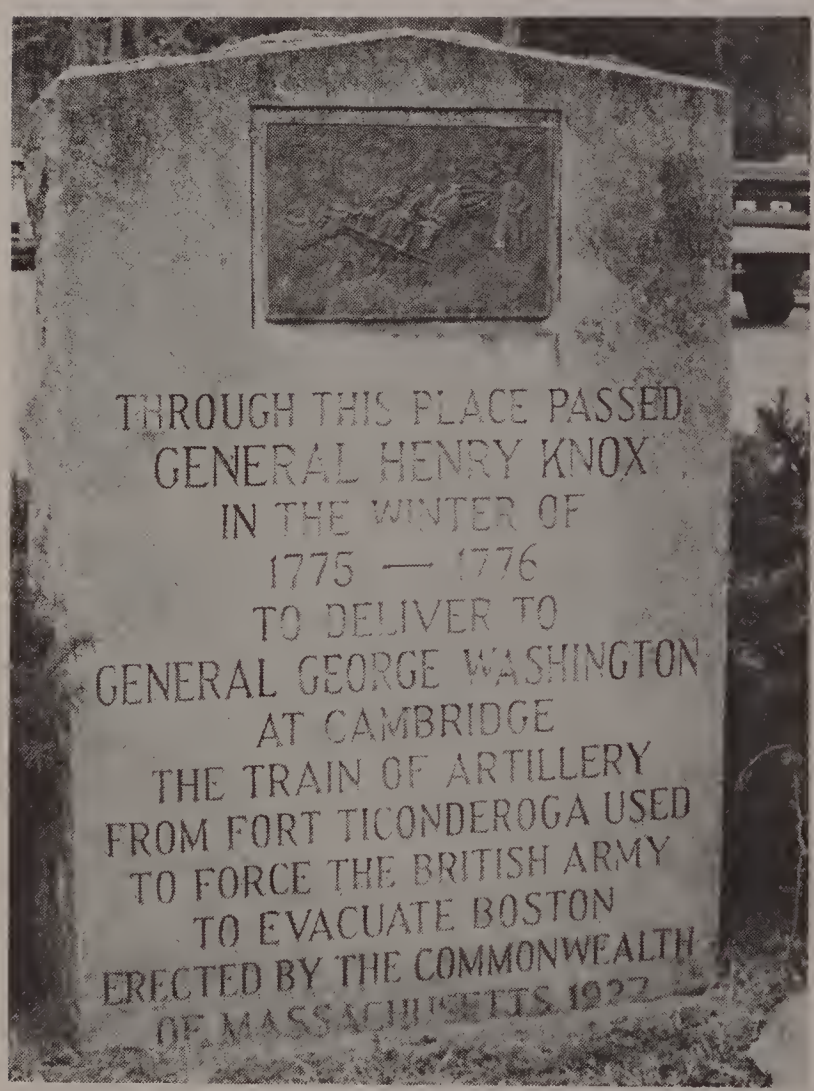
"Hon. B. Loring Young, former Speaker of the House of Representatives, stood in the middle of the road, under the Burgoyne Elm, to receive Washington in behalf of the Selectmen. Washington dipped his sword to him; school children, massed along the road, sang 'Speed our Republic, Oh Father on high', which is a hymn written especially for the

(Continued on Page 6)

HISTORIC MONUMENTS O







Above, left to right:

"The April 19th" Boulder, entering
at Josiah Smith Tavern facing the
Memorial at Base of Town Hall Fla
Concord Road, and Fiske Lane, given

Left:

Knox Trail Monument at the southw

Right:

Norsemen's Tower at Norumbega,—se

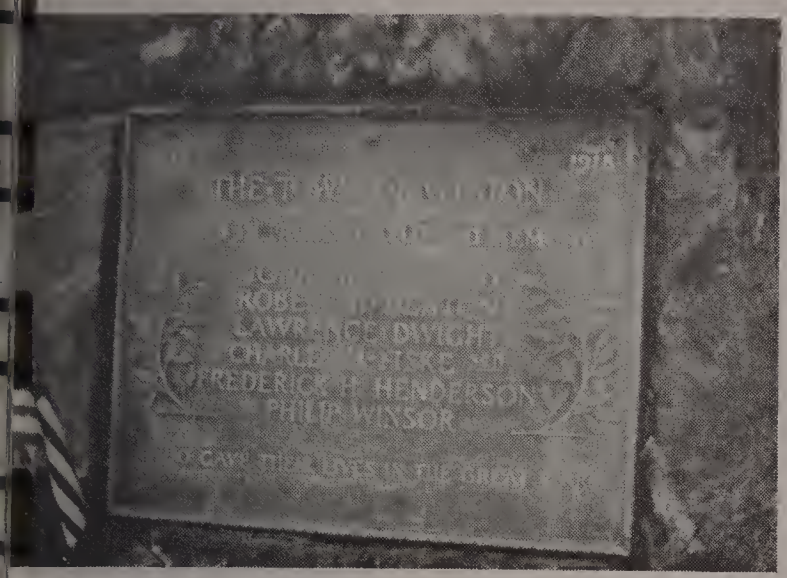
Below, left to right:

The Revolutionary War *"Beacon S*
Memorial Highway" Marker, dedicate
at the Burgoyne Elm,—see story beg
Served Their Country . . .", Linwo
Arboretum's Case Estates in the Tow

Ack

The photographs herein portrayed
Harnish, expressly for, and have been preser

VESTON MASSACHUSETTS



ark; *"Washington Passed This Place"* Tablet
en on the Boston Post Road; *World War I*
oldiers' Park, bounded by the Post Road,
s of Isaac and Augustus Henry Fiske;

f the Town Green;

. BULLETIN, Oct. 1973, Vol. X, No. I;

Sanderson's Hill; the *"George Washington*
Bicentennial of his birth, Boston Post Road
on Page 3; *"To The Memory of Those Who*
ery; *Case Memorial Park* facing the Arnold
phical center.

nent

by our fellow charter member, Victor C.
The Weston Historical Society, Inc. —Ed.

 (Continued from Page 3)

Washington Bicentennial year. Mr. Young bade George Washington welcome . . . and Washington responded in the exact language that was used by the President on his tour of the towns in 1789.

"As he concluded his response a little girl stepped from the crowd, as little Hannah Gowen did in 1789, and George Washington dismounted and gracefully kissed her. . . . By ceremonies that followed, the town officially unveiled the road marker which was presented to the Commonwealth by Mr. Young in behalf of Weston. Adjutant General Agnew who joined the party today, accepted the marker for the Commonwealth and Herbert E. Tyler, chairman of the Weston Board of Selectmen, addressed the assembly in appreciation of generous cooperation."

In the Society's rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern a photograph may be seen of the General heading the Cavalcade as it approached the welcoming committee and townsfolk at the Burgoyne Elm.

H. G. T.

"OUR OLDFASHIONED GARDEN AT THE LAW OFFICE" A REPRINT THAT REPEATS A PLEA

"The early daffodils, stately in glorious gold, were again resplendent at Easter, and now it's lilac time! Later varieties of daffodils are not far behind. In June the peonies will pop out, and all through Weston's summertime we'll have day lilies. In its sequestered, picturesque, and peaceful setting, the little oldfashioned garden nestles quietly just two dozen short steps below the Burgoyne Elm Bole, a hallmark of Weston history.

"Out of our thousand and one members, can we perchance find just a few,—ten would be too many,—who stay in Weston summers, who are not too *involved,* who have a few minutes once a week to render a simple service dependably, who *care enough to care for* our little gem by pulling a few weeds before they get tough, and who, when the dry spells come, could spend a few minutes tending to the sprinkler?"

The above appeared in the BULLETIN a year ago, and despite its failure to draw a single volunteer, we are prone to try again. Just dial 899-4515 if you are willing and able to help us maintain the beauty and charm of this 1969 award-winning garden in its historic and parklike setting behind our headquarters, the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office. Incidentally the outdoor alcove outside the south side of the Josiah Smith Tavern's colonial kitchen where we gather on Wednesdays lends itself admirably to the restoration of a simple, informal bulb or herb planting.

WHEN YOU MOVE

Be sure to notify us of any change in your address, even if you are only moving from one Weston location to another. Also remember to keep your dues paid up. You thus will ensure regular and uninterrupted receipt of all Society announcements and of all issues of the "BULLETIN".

APPRECIATION

Thanks to the generosity of our fellow member, Mrs. Robert B. McLeod, a handsome plaque now adorns the door that opens into the parlor from the kitchen of the Society's rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern. You are invited to visit us any Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4. The plaque reads:

"MISS ELLEN M. JONES
1858 – 1950
MISS ALICE E. JONES
1861 – 1947
MEMORIAL ROOM"

For more about the "Jones Girls" see Pages 5 and 6 of "Once Upon A Pung," copies of which may be secured at the time of your visit.

Weston

Oh, dear old Weston! blessings rest
Upon thy borders, east and west,
Upon thy strong and rocky soil
That yields it's best to honest toil,
Upon thy breezes pure and free,
That cherish laughing childhood's glee,
And send fresh life to aged hearts
Till they forget that life hath smarts.
God bless thy lily-ponds, thy hills,
Thy woods, thy clear bird-haunted rills!
God bless the lovely church, thy people,
Who built so fair — without a steeple!

Sept. 1888

A POET SINGS OF WESTON

From an old Weston barn comes a tiny booklet entitled *"Songs of Age."* It contains only three short poems written, we are told on the back of the $1.00 price tag that accompanied it, by Mrs. Louisa J. Hall of Cambridge who "used to board at Mrs. Sam Clark's." Only the first poem refers to Weston and is reproduced above. Though it was written 89 years ago, we can be thankful that the charms of the Town as recited by her then have not disappeared even now. Examine "Songs of Age" any Wednesday afternoon at the Society's "Open House" in the Josiah Smith Tavern. Bring along some family memento, memoir, or relic for review and discussion with our Curator and fellow members. Invite your friends.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue, we have been pleased to learn that the following have enrolled as active members of the Society: Mr. and Mrs. John T. Funkhouser of 68 Westland Road, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. MacKenzie, Jr., of 22 Arrowhead Road, and Mr. Warren E. Vittum of 87 Brook Road. Miss Alison Bryant Vaughan, daughter of Dr. M. Clay Vaughan and Dr. Deborah Whitaker Vaughan of Gun Club Lane deserves a special welcome because not only is she our youngest member but also because her parents have favored her with a life membership in the Society in honor of her having been born on June 8th of last year and thus, four days later, the youngest citizen of Weston on Bicentennial Family Day. Just as she was Weston's *Bicentennial Baby* of 1976 may she be our *Tricentennial Lady* of 2076!

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: John H. Bishop

Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon

Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson

Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III

Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

Board of Directors

John H. Bishop '77; Brenton H. Dickson III '78; Roy L. Dickson '78; Donald D. Douglass '77; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '78; Homer C. Lucas '77; Edward W. Marshall '79, Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79, Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson '79, and Harold G. Travis '78.

Committees

Auditing: Roy L. Dickson, Ch.

Finance: Harry B. Jones, Ch., James R. Hocking, and Horace Nichols.

Hospitality: Mesdames Reginald D. Wells, Ch., Richard Albrecht, James T. Jensen, and Samuel R. Payson.

Isaac Fiske Law Office: Mesdames Harold G. Travis and Homer C. Lucas, co-ch., Messrs. Roy L. Dickson, Edward W. Marshall, Bruce Nickerson, and George J. Pink.

Liaison: Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine, Ch., Edward W. Marshall, and Harold G. Travis.

Membership: Mesdames John A. Paine, Jr., Ch., Reginald B. Elwell, Frank O. Shaw, William A. Whittemore, and Thurston B. Wright, Jr.

Nominating: John G. Brooks, Ch., John S. Hodges, Edward W. Marshall, and Mrs. William A. Whittemore.

Program: Mesdames M. Kirkbride Patterson, Ch., Allan W. Fulkerson, James B. Greason, Jr., Lyman Stone Hayes, Edward W. Rayner, and William A. Whittemore.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family (including children under 21)

Gift memberships are suggested.

Contributions and bequests to the Endowment fund are welcomed.

Make all checks payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. and mail to Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193.

Additional Copies of The BULLETIN may be obtained at 50c each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533 or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1977 Vol. XIV, No. 1

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN WESTON

See Story Beginning on Page 3

"HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE" LECTURES START OCTOBER 4TH

A sell-out is virtually assured as we go to press for the fall series of eight weekly two-hour lectures in historical research that the Society, in cooperation with the town historical Commission, is offering to members and friends. The Lecturer is Allen Charles Hill of Winchester whose reputation as a skilled speaker, architect, and historian ranks high throughout the country.

The "HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE" lecture series represent undoubtedly the most comprehensive program that the Society has ever offered to its membership. The course surveys domestic architecture from the 17th Century to the present, and includes the presentation of abundant colored slides from Mr. Hill's personal collection. He will elaborate on the researching and restoring of old historic buildings.

The first of eight consecutive Tuesday evening sessions starts on October 4th at 7:30 P.M. in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern where attendance will be limited to 65 so that each person will get the utmost out of each presentation. If you have not already enrolled, you should call Mr. Lucas at 899-2133 to see whether or not any vacancy exists in the registration list.

ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 1977
JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN – 8:00 P.M.

A large turnout of members is expected at the annual meeting of the Society in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern on Thursday evening, October 27th. A short business meeting over which the president, John H. Bishop, will preside, features reports of committees and officers, and the election of three directors. The terms of Messrs. Bishop, Douglass, and Lucas expire. The Nominating Committee, headed by John G. Brooks, will welcome your suggestions.

One of today's most popular lecturers on American Antiques, Roland B. Hammond, will present a slide lecture entitled *"CITY AND COUNTRY FURNITURE"*. A past president of North Andover Historical Society and a graduate of Yale, Mr. Hammond is a recognized authority in the field of American Decorative Arts as an appraiser, dealer, and collector. He has lectured at Old Sturbridge Village, Winterthur Museum, and various historical societies throughout the East. Well known by many of our members already, Mr. Hammond will find himself among friends. Following his address, refreshments will be served by our Hospitality Committee. Be sure to come early and bring prospective members as your guests thus affording them a good sampling of our Society's stimulating programs and plans.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ARE WORTHWHILE

Every life membership benefits the Weston Historical Society. The principal is never touched, but the income may annually be used by the directors to aid any unusually worthwhile project for which the regular operating income might be inadequate. Such a use has not been deemed necessary since the Society came into existence almost 15 years ago. Three charter members who are still living can be particularly pleased to learn that by compounded interest their original $200 have already doubled, yielding at least $24 yearly to the Society.

The Endowment Fund comprises contributions from three main sources: – life memberships, memorial gifts, and bequests. Only by special vote of the directors can even the income ever be used. The principal is kept intact and income is automatically added to the end of each fiscal year if not voted for use by the directors. Donors to the Endowment Fund may specify the use to which they wish the income from their contributions to be put.

Some time in the future it is conceivable that in addition to its occupancy of the Josiah Smith Tavern and of the Isaac Fiske Law Office, the Weston Historical Society may acquire its own physical property through gift or purchase. In such event the income from our present Endowment Fund of slightly under $10,000 would obviously be inadequate. Without the pressure and urgency of any drive, why don't you consider the lasting benefits of life membership for yourself, a member of the family, or a good friend? Life members have no annual dues to pay. How gratifying it would be to feel that as a life member you will be perpetuating an income that for endless years to come will be so rewarding in steady revenue to the Society!

The Board voted at its June 30th meeting to raise the cost of life memberships to $250, effective next January 1st. Prior to that time we recommend that as many members as possible consider joining at the original $200 rate those listed below who have helped to make the future and stability of our organization secure. All checks should be made payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc. Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts.

LIFE MEMBERS: WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Thomas D. Cabot, Brenton H. Dickson 3rd, Frederick C. Dumaine, Jr., Mrs. Frederick C. Dumaine, Jr., Mrs. Marshall Dwinnell, Mrs. Stephen E. Fitzgerald*, Mrs. Dwight Foster, Mrs. Homer C. Lucas, Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, Eric Reissner, Mrs. John W. Scott, Pickering Dodge Stone*, Mrs. Homer N. Sweet*, Harold G. Travis, Alison Bryant Vaughan, Wilmot Whitney*, and Mrs. Donald Wyman.

*deceased

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN WESTON

The Abel Allen House, c. 1696, number one Chestnut Street, long called the oldest house in Weston, may well be considered so due to discoveries made in recent research.* The house, formerly owned by Ruth and John W. Scott, is now owned by Barbara and Theodore B. Alfond.

Abel Allen (1669-1756), son of Lewis Allen and Sarah Ives, in 1685 when only 15 years of age, inherited from his grandfather, Miles Ives, "a farme which my son-in-law Lewis Allen liveth on." The inventory of Ives' estate lists "a farme of fourscore acors, 60 pounds," as well as his "homestall."

Miles Ives was one of the earliest inhabitants of Watertown and when in 1642 the "Farms or Farmlands" of Watertown, (that part of Watertown which in 1713 was incorporated as Weston), were allotted to the settlers he received Lot #68 of 78 acres in the third "Lott or Division." The order for the allotments read as follows: "Ordered that all Townes men that had not Farms laid out formerly shall take them by Ten in a Division, and to cast Lotts for the several divisions allowing 13 acres of upland to every head of Persons and cattle." A total of 92 farms were allotted in 9 divisions.

In 1695 an additional 22 acres of Ives' estate, located in the vicinity of the farm, came to Abel Allen.

When Abel inherited the farm he was living on the property with his father and mother and their three other children. By 1695 Abel was 26 years old, was married, had had a son, Robert, and was expecting a second child. It is possible that about this time Abel left the house where his father lived and built the original part of the present one.

The date of 1696 has long been attributed to the Abel Allen House and extensive renovations done by John W. Scott in 1961 confirm the date. When built it consisted of two rooms, 18' x 18', one over one, (the south west corner of the present house), with an entryway with stairs, chimney, and smoke chamber, built on the east side.

In deeds of 1750, 1757 and 1758 distinction is made between the two Allen farms, "the farm where I now live," and "my homestead." There is a legend that there existed another cellar hole in the property across Chestnut Street.

Abel Allen had ten children by his first wife, Sarah, and well he might have needed the lean-to added about 1720 which included a kitchen with large fireplace built into the original stack and the attic space above. Evidence of this addition was revealed in the reconstruction of 1961.

In the few early records of Weston still in existence there are several mentions of Abel Allen. He and his brother, Ebenezer, were two of the 19 men in Watertown Farms who joined together to form the church in 1710, the organization which in 1713 was incorporated as the town of Weston. Abel and his wife, Sarah, were formerly members of the church in Sudbury from which they were dismissed in 1712-13.

Abel Allen was one of a committee of the early church to consider the first minister and to call a subsequent one. He with his two sons, David and John, and his brother, Ebenezer, together with other men on the south side of town were enjoined by law in 1734 to work on the highway beginning "at the Needham Line" and ending "from Abel Allen's house out into ye town way near Adam Smith's." In 1744 Abel Allen was second oldest of the church members "now living and not dismissed or removed to other churches."

In 1750 Abel Allen sold to his son, David, one half of his farm "where I now live" for 500 pounds, a farm of 64 acres, reserving the northerly end of the house for himself.

Abel Allen died in 1756 at the age of 87. In his will he made bequests to his sons, Robert, John, George, and David, to his daughters, Sarah and Susannah, and to his granddaughters, Abegail and Mary, daughters of his deceased son, Abel (1714-1742). To his second wife, Elizabeth, he left the "northerly end of my now dwelling house to improve for herself" and to his son, David, "all my lands and tenaments in Weston and elsewhere."

*This house was formerly designated the Thomas Allen House. There appears to have been no Thomas Allen who settled in Weston in the early years. Evidence from the bounds in various deeds indicates that the property belonged to Abel Allen. It also appears that there were two distinct Allen families who were early settlers in Weston and who have often been confused in the past. Lewis Allen and his son Abel settled on Chestnut Street, Walter Allen on Ripley Lane.

After inheriting the remainder of his father's property David Allen lived only three more years. In that short time, he mortgaged one half the farm of 64 acres in 1756 to Thomas Rand and Jeremiah Whittemore; in 1757 he sold to Elisha Jones "his messuage and tenament" "where I now dwell", 64 acres for 500 pounds; and in 1758 he sold to Elisha Jones "messuage and tenament" "being my homestead in Weston", 70 acres, for 250 pounds.

David Allen (1705-1760), the seventh child of Abel and Sarah, was a member of the Train Band in 1757. In 1758 "at the age of fifty" and "owning his own gun" he either "enlisted or was impressed for His Majesty's service within the Province of Massachusetts Bay under Jeffry Amherst Esq., General and Commander-in-chief for the Invasion of Canada." In 1759 he was in service under Captain Israel Davis in the second attack on Louisburg. There he died on February 12th, 1760. In March his widow, Mary, requested that Elisha Jones, her neighbor to the west, be appointed administrator for her husband's estate. In Col. Jones' account is listed "1760 April 18, received of Capt. Israel Davis for goods sold at Loisburg, 3 pounds 4 shillings 7 pence." We know that David Allen left two children under seven years of age as 10 pounds was allowed his widow for their care.

Sometime after 1758 Thomas Rand, housewright (1727-1805), became the owner of the Allen house. Philip W. Baker who did the reconstruction in 1961 was led to believe that Thomas Rand, a skilled builder, had a hand in the interesting and unusual changes that occurred in the house. About 1760 two rooms, 13' x 14', one over one, were added to the east of the large chimney. The front stair was removed and the 1720 lean-to was replaced by a larger one extending across the north side of the house. At the east end of the lean-to were added three small rooms, 6' x 6', one over the other, the lowest one a milk room with stone floor set 3' below first floor grade. These three rooms with their winding stair form a unique feature not found in other colonial houses. Evidence uncovered in the 1760 lean-to indicates that construction was carried on over a period of time during which time the building was occupied.

Neither deeds nor a will can be found to show the transfer of ownership of the two Allen farms, one of 64 acres and one of 70 acres, owned in 1758 by Elisha Jones until 1781 when Thomas Rand bought part of the property.

Elisha Jones, a Tory, fled to Boston in 1775 where he died, February 1776. His estates were confiscated by the Commonwealth and sold at a public vendue in Weston in 1781 at which time Thomas Rand bid 186 pounds for "The Allen Farme, so-called, 33 acres", "more than any other person offered."

Thomas Rand was taxed for real estate on the south side of town from the first tax list that still exists, that of 1757, and thereafter until his death. His taxes increased 5 pounds in 1763 and 3 pounds in 1771 showing increased ownership of real estate. The increase of 11 pounds in 1775 reflected the purchase in 1774 of six properties, three in the neighborhood of the Allen farm.

Thomas Rand, housewright, was the son of Benjamin Rand, housewright and builder of the 1720 meeting house. He married Esther Carter by whom he had eleven children and after her death he married Elizabeth Estabrook by whom he had three.

Thomas Rand was an outstanding patriot and served his town and country in many capacities. He was in the Train Band in 1757 and marched to Lexington on April 19, 1775, in Major Samuel Lamson's Company together with his two sons, Benjamin, aged 21, and Thomas, Jr., aged 17. Sons Benjamin and Thomas, Jr., also served in the Third Regiment stationed at Dorchester Heights, March 4, 1776, and son Benjamin "went to Canada" with the Weston Company in 1776. A son of Thomas Rand guarded the beacon ordered, in 1778, to be placed on Sanderson Hill. It was one of a series of signals set up to warn other towns.

From the Town Records we find that Thomas Rand was called upon repeatedly to do work for the town. He repaired the meeting house on many occasions and "made a lader" for the same. He repaired the "Senter Schoolhous and the South School hous". He was paid for "seting glass and his sons work in mending the School house." He was paid for "Labour at the workhous" and for "Repairing the Pound". He made a "coffen for widow Cory", one for "Benjamin Stimson" and one for "Josiah Cooledge" and a bier. He supplied "wood for school" and for the Rev. Samuel Kendal.

From the Town Records we also find that Thomas Rand, as housewright, was called upon for much of the construction of the town. In 1775 he was paid for "building and finding stuff" for a school house in the southwest part of town. He worked at "the Great Bridge in Watertown" in 1775 and in 1780 he was paid for "hewing 2 Spring-Peases for the New Bridge so called". He petitioned to build a stable on town land in 1799. The petition was granted "reserving an extent sufficient to cover a Hearse which may be built for the use of the Town."

Rand's advice was sought when considering changes in town buildings. In 1797 he was on a committee to "examin the School Housen upon the North Side of Town and Consider whether it best to repair said School housen or build them anew." When in 1791 major work was thought needed for the meeting house, Thomas Rand was on a committee "to view and Consider what Repairs are Necessary and expedient" and in 1796 he was again on one to "draw a plan of porches Proposed to be built to the Meeting House." Extensive work was done in 1800 at which time Thomas Rand was paid 7 pounds 82 shillings for 220 feet of "Oak Joists" and 140 pounds 50 shillings for "frame for the Tower". A bell, number 44, was ordered from Paul Revere and was hung in the tower the following year.

Thomas Rand was active in the cause of war during the Revolution. He received pay for "Trimming Bollets and Sorting them and Boxes to put them in" in 1775-6. In 1777 he and John Stimpson supervised the building of a magazine in Sudbury for storing war supplies.

Thomas Rand was an officer of the town for many years. He was "Surveyor of Highways and Collector", "Preserver of Dear", and Constable. For eight years he was Surveyor of Boards and Shingles. For the three crucial years leading to the war and for the first two of independence, 1773-1777, he was a Selectman of the Town.

Thomas Rand was on numerous committees formed to solve the many problems of the war and of independence. In 1777 he was on one "to hire Men and to have them Paid by an Assessment on ye Inhabitants and Estates" and also to "make an Estimation of what Every Person has done in the Service of the war since ye 19th of April A.D. 1775."

Thomas Rand was one of nine men on the important committee to "take under Consideration the Plan of Government" proposed for the State of Massachusetts and to make a report. On May 24, 1778, the committee "voted disapprobation" of the plan for three reasons; first, because "Negroes, Indians, and Molatoes", although owning property, would not be permitted to vote for Representative; second, because the Constitution should not be settled during "Convulsions of War" as "so many worthy members are out of State"; third, because the Constitution is not connected with a declaratory Bill of Rights "which ought to have been the ground and foundation" upon which it "should be formed and built."

Two delegates from Weston, Thomas Rand and Samuel Fiske, were sent to the Concord Convention held in October 1779. The Convention recommended "regulating the price of Sundery articles" and a committee of five was set up in Weston, including Thomas Rand, "to see that every one in this Town abide by the articles afores'd."

In 1779 and in 1781 Thomas Rand was on a committee of three men to examine the War Accounts. In 1786 there were still "Pressing Demands upon the Treasurer for monies". A committee of three including Thomas Rand was voted "to enquire whether they can Borrow any money for the use of the Town and at what rate or whether they can Negotiate or Settle any of the Demands against the Town".

At the time of Thomas Rand's death in 1805 at the age of 78 his farm, number one Chestnut Street, consisted of 112 acres, 3 quarters, and 25 rods and included the "Mansion house", "Cyder Mill-house and Mill", "Chaise and wood-house and hog-pen", "Carpenter shop and buildings adjoining". Also in his estate was "a stable situated on the North of the Publick meeting house", the same that Rand had received permission from the town to build in 1799.

Thomas Rand's will set off one third of the property for his widow, Elizabeth, as well as, "of the dwelling house the south lower room and the easterly part of the cellar under the same, the north Chamber and garret over the same with the privelege of washing, baking, and doing dairy work in the kitching," a share in other buildings and privileges and

"to make use of the water in the well and to improve one third part of the door yard." His other heirs were sons, Benjamin, Nathan and John, the latter guardian for Polly Stone, Daniel, Naby, Isaiah W. and Nathan Rand.

Thomas Rand's son Benjamin, (1754-1840), Harvard class of 1808. LL.D. was editor of several volumes of the Massachusetts Reports. According to the A. Tower Map of Weston he was occupying the Abel Allen House in 1830.

Descendants of the Rand family lived in the house until 1903 and some still live in the town of Weston.

Frances V. Marshall
August 3, 1977

Note: A full account of the Abel Allen House with complete references is on file with the Weston Historical Commission.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE'S DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL FALL MEETING TO BE HELD AT SALEM

When Weston Historical Society came into being in 1963, one of its first acts was to affiliate with the Bay State Historical League whose membership comprises some 350 local historical organizations throughout the Commonwealth. Stimulating quarterly meetings are well attended in various host cities and towns ranging from Nantucket to Stockbridge and from Newburyport to Uxbridge. In the past dozen years three of our own members have served terms as directors, and one as vice president.

Recently a special category, – "individual membership", – was instituted whereby members of local societies are permitted to become associate members. Already there are more than 250 of whom seven are Weston people. Such individual League membership costs only ten dollars annually, payable to Bay State Historical League, Room 27, State House, Boston, Massachusetts 02133. All of the League's mailings, including its Quarterly Magazine, are mailed directly to you so that you are kept personally and promptly posted on all meetings, workshops, and conferences.

The pleasure of meeting and mingling with contemporaries from other societies statewide, and of getting new ideas for our own programs here, would doubly reward you for having joined the League in this, its 75th anniversary year. The annual fall meeting will be in Salem on Saturday, October 22nd, and it is expected that a delegation from Weston will attend. For details, call any member of our Liaison Committee whose names are listed on the back page of this issue.

A TIMELY QUOTATION

"So that our children, in reviewing the history of our times, may rejoice to see the talents given into our keeping, not laid up in a napkin, but used and increased tenfold!"

—Charles H. Fiske, Orator of the Day, July 4, 1876.

ANOTHER FITTING ACQUISITION

Among recent gifts to the Society is a most attractive sconce made from wood of our historic Burgoyne Elm by our fellow townsman, Richard G. Gould. It has been added to our Burgoyne Collection on display at our headquarters in the Isaac Fiske Law Office, notably the President's Gavel and a wall plaque by Harold Stevens, a dropleaf table by Howard Forbes, and the late H. W. Longfellow's oil painting. As the years pass, these relics will become of increasing interest. If any other skilled craftsman in our membership is so inclined and would like to make mementos for us from the Burgoyne Elm, call 899-4515. A few pieces, milled from the original tree, are still available for this purpose. Those of us who are carefully watching the six ten year old scions of the old landmark whose bole is adjacent to the law office on the Post Road opposite Soldiers' Park are concerned to note that the tallest of them all, mangled by the May 9th storm, is apparently lost and the two on Lamson Park are very definitely ailing. Efforts to same them may be futile, but we are desperately trying!

THE CANE AND A TABLET:– A COUPLE OF SUGGESTED RESEARCH QUESTS

Oldtimers may remember that back in the early 1920's the now defunct Boston Post presented various cities and towns in the Commonwealth with a gold-headed cane to be passed consecutively from the Town's oldest inhabitant to his successor ad infinitum. No records in the Town Hall have yet been found to substantiate the fact that Weston's Board of Selectmen ever received such a trust. Yet our representative in the General Court and former Selectman, Ed Dickson, and his brother Brent, our Historian, attest to our memory that Weston's last Civil War survivor, Francis Ripley, carried such a cane on many occasions, especially each Memorial Day, until his death in 1939. The Society itself was presented recently with the oil painting of an old "G.A.R." soldier who is recognized and identified as Mr. Ripley. Seated, the old veteran in his blue Union uniform, may be seen clutching with both hands the cane whose gilded head is unmistakenly clear. The painting, done by the late Miss Gertrude Fiske, was presented to us by her nephew, Andrew J. Willis, also a descendant of Isaac Fiske.

What has happened to the cane? A grandson, Harrison Ripley, who grew up in Weston, but is now a resident of Groton, does not know what happened to it. He recently brought to us a number of precious relics from the family collection of Weston items, but has no knowledge of what ever became of his grandfather's cane. We have urged him to question other members of the Ripley family, none of whom live here anymore. Meanwhile if any member can augment this meager information or is willing to look through old newspapers of Waltham or Boston, please communicate with the Editor at 899-4515. Take our word for it: – one discovery or the uncovering of a lost relic of historical value can bring you an unsuspected thrill!

Our second mystery relates to our last issue of the BULLETIN wherein the historic monuments of Weston appeared in ten photographs spreading over Pages 4 and 5. When we brought it to the attention of Mrs. Harold Stevens, another Weston native, she brought out a faded and rather indistinct snapshot that had been taken by her husband after the disastrous icestorm of 1922 in front of the Public Library. The snowplow had just made one run over the Post Road, and except for the building itself and what was left of a few tattered trees and several large limbs strewn in the foreground, one can faintly discern two objects of interest that no longer grace the Library's little front lawn. Near the still hazardous street corner, one recognizes the plywood World War I kiosk that reputedly was removed to the Town dump and burned when the bronze tablets that now adorn part of the wall in the upper Town Hall were subsequently installed to commemorate the names of Weston men who served their country in the war that was to have ended all wars and to have made the world safe for democracy. On a line with the kiosk and immediately west of the sidewalk approaching the library entrance we could make out the dark form of a tablet which in shape and size seemed familiar. A high powered lens seemed to suggest that, as intimated, we were looking at the "Washington Passed This Place" slate tablet that is pictured at top of Page 5 in last May's BULLETIN and is today, as it has been for the best part of the past half century at least, ensconced securely in the low stonewall that faces the Town Green and extends westward along the Boston Post Road from the Josiah Smith Tavern.

The task of finding out the origin of the historic tablet has not proved to be a simple one, for there is no mark on it, front or back, to identify its donor(s) or age. Neither do Town records or phone conversations with seemingly countless state departments reveal any references to shed light on whether it first stood on the Library's front lawn until at least the icestorm of 1922 or, as another oldtimer faintly recalls, "on the lawn above the wall just northwest of the Smith Tavern." While obviously the quandary is not of earth-shaking importance or value, does anyone, in the interest of accuracy and documentation, have any information or inclination to report to the Editor at 899-4515? Members so inclined can contribute lots of cumulative manpower to the Society's research activities of which these two illustrations are "just a tempting taste."

REMINDER AND REQUEST

Membership dues should be kept up to date. By sending your check promptly to the Treasurer on receipt of his statement, you will lighten his load and safeguard your receipt of all Society mailings. The overwhelming endorsement and support of so many Weston fellow citizens are constantly stimulating not only to him but to all of your officers and committees as well. Thank you!

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: John H. Bishop

Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon

Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson

Curator: Mrs. James E. Fraser Historian: Brenton H. Dickson III

Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

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Program: Mesdames M. Kirkbride Patterson, Ch., Allan W. Fulkerson, James B. Greason, Jr., Lyman Stone Hayes, Edward W. Rayner, and William A. Whittemore.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family (including children under 21)

Life: $200 per person (will become $250 effictive Jan. 1, 1978)

Contributions, bequests, and memorial gifts to the Endowment Fund are welcomed.

Make all checks payable to the Weston Historical Society, Inc. and mail to Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Additional copies of the BULLETIN may be obtained at 50c each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1978 Vol. XIV, No. 2

THE SOUTH BURYING GROUND

"AND TO ACCOMADATE THE SOUTH PART OF THE TOWN, MR. INCREASE LEADBETTER, being in Town-Meeting, did agree to Sell half an Acre of his field adjoining the road, the Town to make one Division wall Said to be about Ten rods, and pay him five dollars as a Consideration for the Same ---- which was likewise Agreed to by the Town." ----

Page 409 of the 1789 Town Records reporting the September 3rd adjourned meeting that was held on the "last Monday of this Instant Sept." *(See pages 4 through 7 in this issue.)*

SOCIETY'S WINTER MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING FEBRUARY FIRST

Charles D. Childs of Stow, Massachusetts, an authority on American art, will deliver a slide lecture entitled "AMERICAN LIFE AS THE ARTIST HAS SEEN IT" at the February 1st, 1978 meeting of the Weston Historical Society which will be held in the ball room of the Josiah Smith Tavern at 8 o'clock P.M.

Mr. Childs founded the Childs Gallery of Boston in 1937 and retired from this on-going business in 1969. He has been active in the work of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, serving for many years as Director of its Museum, and Editor of its *Bulletin*. He played a leading role in organizing the great Harvard Tercentenary Exhibition in 1936. Also he has worked with the Boston Arts Festival, the Boston Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Boston Opera Company. At the present time he is Honorary Curator of Prints at the Boston Public Library. Those who know Mr. Childs from his articles in Antiques magazine will now have an opportunity to hear him and make his acquaintance in the social hour that follows.

TWO NEW BOOKS ABOUT WESTON

We take great pride in heralding two fascinating new books that are centered in Weston. Published in limited editions they are: *RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS* by our own historian Brenton H. Dickson, written in his inimitable style "for my grandchildren", and *THE TAVERN AND THE TORY* by our charter member Howard Gambrill Jr. with Charles Hambrick-Stowe as co-author, published for the Golden Ball Tavern Trust in recognition of the contributions of so many in the town's most outstanding historical preservation.

These two books are welcomed as distinguished additions to the four others previously written about our town and its people:

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS 1630-1890,
Col. D. S. Lamson; (1913)
WESTON: A PURITAN TOWN, Emma P. Ripley; (1961)
ONCE UPON A PUNG, Brenton H. Dickson; (1963)
ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION,
Brenton H. Dickson and Homer C. Lucas; (1976).

TWO ACTIVE AUTUMN EVENTS

Two recent examples of how the Society constantly cooperates with not only our schools but also with all other town organizations should be cited. The series of 8 lectures last fall by Allen Charles Hill on *HOW OLD IS YOUR HOUSE*, with the Weston Historical Commission as co-sponsor, was a success in every way. Likewise during the first 3 days of December, we were delighted to cooperate with the Weston Arts and Crafts Society in presenting a display of quilts, some well over a century old, made by ladies of Weston and the ancestors of many of our members. Occupying both floors of the Josiah Smith Tavern, the attractive showing was viewed by a steady stream of admirers. It made a most appropriate adjunct to the impressive exhibit of local artists and craftsmen in the Tavern's barn adjoining. A generous check received from the Arts and Crafts Association in appreciation of our co-sponsorship, reveals a cordial community relationship and fulfills one of our basic aims in the *preserving, protecting, and promoting* of Weston's rich heritage.

ANNUAL MEETING AFTERTHOUGHTS

The Josiah Smith Tavern's ballroom floor was again put to the capacity test by the large crowd that turned out November 3rd for our annual meeting. Roland Hammond's slide lecture on old furniture was enthusiastically received, Retiring President John Bishop's report on the year's activities considerately brief and modest, and refreshments, graciously served to wind up a friendly and happy evening.

Most significant to us was the election of Mr. Stephen T. Riley as our new president. His leadership cannot fail to advance the best interests of our Society and of our town. As one of our charter members, he has been all along of invaluable assistance to many of us, and only recently your directors have received a listing of many valuable manuscripts relating to Weston, that are available for reference in the Massachusetts Historical Society where, until his recent retirement, he had been the Director.

LIST OF LIFE MEMBERS GROWS

We have gone to press before Christmas presents may swell the total further, but in this issue we do want to express appreciation to Mrs. Samuel Abbot Smith, and Messrs. Horace W. Cole and Stephen T. Riley for becoming life members. Our Endowment Fund which can be augmented also by bequests, memorial gifts, and special contributions, now approximates $8,000. The capital amount is never used, and only a special vote of the directors can touch the income. So far there have been no such expenditures. When thus added annually, income from Endowment become untouchable principal providing ever-increasing special revenue which someday may well prove necessary and worthwhile.

"6 MEN WERE SHOT AT LEXINGTON . . . . WHILE THE PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING DO YOU PRAY FOR THEM!"

Below is printed through the courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society transcripts of three original letters, all written within a few anxious hours by Samuel Phillips Savage from and of Weston to "John Scollay Esq
3 Boston".

The latter, well known as a Patriot, was born in 1712 and died in 1790. A close friend of Sam Adams, he was a skilled brazier and merchant of Boston where he served as a Selectman from 1754 through 1764 and in 1773 and 1774.

This morning opened the Scene in Blood. 6 Men were shot at Lexington which no doubt you know. I fear too late we shall rue the Inactivity of our wise men. 4 Regiments properly marshalled and suitably disciplined might have saved the Blood that this day may be spilt. – The Regulars have taken and I hear destroyed three fine 24 pdrs. (pounders –Ed) *and disarmed some of our Troops, who want not Bravery but having no Officers of any Experience are like Sheep without a Shepard. Every moment I expect to hear the Action between the Troops, ours are collecting at a distance from the Regulars who are resting and recreating themselves with the distruction of our Canon and wast of the Bullets. O for one man of Spirit to be at the head of our Men who pant to revenge the Blood of thier Brethren.*

Every moment is important, this is all I have yet heard – the next may raise or damp my Spirits. –

While the people are fighting do you pray for them. *Farewell ----*
11 o'clock *a known Friend*

Evening of 19 April 1775

Whether this will ever be delivered I know not. I have lived near 60 years and scarce ever knew till this day, what anxiety about this life meant. From an hour before day till near 9 at night, we have been in the greatest fears for ourselves, our Country, and our Brethren in the Army. Numbers this afternoon we have not wanted, Multitudes are constantly coming in from the Westward, but a few spirited sensible leaders that have been in Action would be most heartily welcome. Its amazing considering we were taken so much unawares that our men ventured so far (about 20 I believe on each side are slain) and that so little Injury in other Respects is done by the Regulars. This night after the Junction of the Artillery and Reinforcements from Boston they are encamped or rather resting themselves on a hill near where the Action first began. I do not expect much Rest this night: the Regulars are too near Neighbours to sleep much. O that the Watchman of Israel might be our Guard, then might we sleep sweetly and none make us affraid.

The poor men who are now lying in the open field, without Great Coats or Blanketts, need the constant fervent and united prayers of all God's people. It is a day of Jacob's Troubles and the foraging seed should wrestle for a Blessing. I hope you received a line from me wrote this morning and last Night.

Farewell
a known Friend

Our friends, – you know who I mean, went from this Town before and at Day Break 20th at Noon

You now have all the news --- We have a Thousand uncertain and different Reports. Whether there has been or is like to be any Action between our Foes and us is uncertain. --- You know your own Business Best --- but it amazes me if you may that you dont leave the Town ---- Trust not the Virtue of a Soldier ---- even Gen.'l Gage's Aid de Camp, Major Small:– it is characteristic of a Soldier that he has the Art of deceiving, and I fear you will find it to be to your Cost though I believe there are some pretended Whigs in whom the people have placed the highest confidence as well furnished with that Art as they are. I wish we were well rid of such, – their bodies can't hurt us, I'm sure.

SCALE 8' = 1"
ALL MEASUREMENTS ARE AT LEAST ± 6"
LOCATION OF HEADSTONES BY STEEL TAPE
MEASUREMENTS FROM INSIDE FACES OF STONE
WALLS ON SOUTH AND WEST SIDES OF CEMETERY.
GRAVESTONE LOCATIONS SHOWN AS OF 1977.
SOME STONES ARE BROKEN; FALLEN; NOT LEGIBLE.
SOME GRAVES HAVE ONLY MARKERS OR FIELD STONES.
LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION BY H.M. FORBES & H.G. TRAVIS.
DRAWN AND LETTERED BY V.E.I. DICKSON (Mrs. Roy L.)

TOWN OF WESTON. INCORPORATED 1712-13. A PART OF WATERTOWN 1630. FARMERS PRECINCT 1698

SOUTH
WESTON
PURCHASED FR

129'-10"

40'
6. EUNICE SPRING W. of WILLIAM
55'
15. SARAH JONES ?
5 MARY SPRING W. of WILLIAM
4 MARY SPRING d. of W.
14. BENJAMIN JONES
PHOEBE T. W. of B.
JAMES S. of B.
94'-6"
80'-6"
12. HARRIET TRAIN W. of SAMUEL
11. SAMUEL TRAIN
25'
19. LUCY TRAIN W. of N.
3 ELIZABETH SPRING CONSORT OF JONATHAN
8'
13. JOSEPH SMITH
MARTHA R. W. of J.
LUCINDA B.
18. NAHUM TRAIN
2 WILLIAM SPRING
13. JACOB PEIRCE
69'-6"
13. JOSEPH SEAVERNS
10. NAHUM TRAIN
1. MRS. ELIZABETH OLIVER
17. LOUISA TRAIN W. of N.
12. MARY PEIRCE W. of JACOB
12. ELIZABETH SEAVERNS W. of JOSEPH
11. EUNICE PEIRCE
16 NAHUM TRAIN, Jr.
10. ALMIRA PEIRCE
15. MARY TRAIN
9. SALLY KILLSA d. of MOSES
14. MRS. RACHEL SEAVERNS W. of JOSIAH
12. SWIFT LEADBETTER
LUCY W. of S.
SWIFT Jr.
MARTHA R. W. of S. Jr.
8. SALLY STIMPSON RELICT of DANIEL
13. INCREASE LEADBETTER
7. DANIEL STIMPSON
OAK TREE
12. SALLY LEADBETTER
6. SALLY STIMSON d. of DANIEL
11. POLLY LEADBETTER
5. LYDIA STIMSON d of DANIEL
11 NABBY LEADBETTER W. of JOAB
10. NABBY LEADBETTER
4 SUSAN ELIZABETH STIMSON W. of D.
10 JOAB LEADBETTER
3 OLIN STIMSON S. of DANIEL
11. NOT LEGIBLE
9. BETSY/RELICT of RICE/EDMUND RICE formerly W. of ARTHUR TRAIN
10 ELIPHALET WESTON
2. DANIEL STIMSON
9 NELLIE L. LOKER
8. ARTHUR TRAIN
8 ABRAHAM LOKER
7. BETSEY TRAIN d. of S.
12. ALICE FISKE d. of A.
60'-0"
ESTHER HARRINGTON W. of B. UNDERWOOD
9 MARY J. MEAD d. of WILLIAM
7. ABIGAIL LOKER W. of A.
11. ALICE FISKE W. of A.
2. 8. SARAH M. W. MEAD W. of WILLIAM
6. SARAH ANN LEADBETTER ? d. of INCREASE
6 HARRIOT TRAIN d. of S.
10. ABIJAH FISKE
7. SARAH M. HASTINGS W. of JOSIAH
5. CHARLES M. LEADBETTER
5. ENOCH TRAIN
9. ELIZABETH MORSE W. of CHARLES
9. ISAAC FISKE
8. CHARLES MORSE
4. ABIGAIL LEADBETTER
4. HARRIOT TRAIN d. of E.
1. MRS. ZERA HARRINGTON W. of TYLER
6 CAPT. BENAIAH MORSE
3. INCREASE LEADBETTER
3. ENOCH TRAIN S. of E.
8. EMERSON LAWRENCE S. of W.
7. SARAH E. MORSE d. of CHARLES
2. ELIJAH LEADBETTER
7. LUCY BOGLE W. of WILLIAM
5 MRS. SARAH MORSE
2. DEA. SAMUEL TRAIN
6. WILLIAM BOGLE
4. EPHRAIM MORSE S. of BENAIAH
6 IRENE L. LOVEWELL W. of ISAAC R.
5. JOHN BOGLE
1. DEBORAH TRAIN W. of S.
3. ASENATH LOVEWELL W. of S.
5 ISAAC R. LOVEWELL
4 MARY BOGLE RELICT of JOHN
1. ABIGAIL LOVEWELL W. of SAMUEL
4 LOVEWELL (MENIAS) ? LOVEWELL (COLLAND) ?
1. ABBY JENNIE LOKER
3. DANIEL LAWRENCE S. of W.
2. CHLOE LOVEWELL W. of S.
3 FRANCIS M. LOVEWELL
2. SAMUEL LAWRENCE S. of W.
1. SAMUEL LOVEWELL
2. IRENE LOVEWELL d. of ISAAC R.
1. HANNAH GOODWIN W. of JOHN
1. HANNAH LEWIS

169'-0"
112'-5" ±
PATH

ROWS I II III IV V ? VI VII VIII IX X
5'-6" 10'-6" 9' 9' 17' 7'-6" 10' 10' 9'

97'-7" ±
5'
176'-5"
SOUTH AVENUE

14 ABIJA LEAD
13 ADELINE F. LEADBETT
12 EDWARD LEADBETT
11. LUCY LEAD
10. ANN LEADBETTE
9. HORACE LEAD
8. FRA LOK
7. TIMOTHY A. MARY IRVING
6. MORDECA LEADBET
5 DEA LE
4. CLA W.
3. TYL RU JOI MAR
2. MA W. of ED
1. EDWARD

X - 1	PORTER:	Edward A. 1812-1890	78
2		*Mary Lucinda, his wife d. July 27, 1898	
II - 9	RICE:	Betsy (Relict of Edmund) also wife of Arthur Train d. Nov. 21, 1855	80
XI - 4	RILEY:	*Emily Walton 1896-1922	
XI - 4		**Ethel A. d. Dec. 4, 1922	
VIII - 13	SEAVERNS:	Joseph d. April 4, 1833	80
12		Elizabeth, his wife, d. Mar. 12, 1835	78
II - 14		Mrs. Rachel, wife of Josiah d. Jan. 31, 1808	62
	SMITH:	**Anne W. d. May 14, 1899	
		**Betsey M. d. Dec. 15, 1902	
		Caroline L. 1871-1894	
		**David C. d. April 25, 1907	
		**Ellen C. d. 1931	
		**George d. 1933	66
I - 13		Joseph d. June 19, 1922	
13		Martha Rebecker, his wife d. July 7, 1865	23/8/11
		**Lemuel Alpheus d. Mar. 24, 1908	
		**Lorenzo d. Nov. 21, 1914	
13		*Lucinda B.	
	SPOFFORD:	**Moses d. June 17, 1898	
IV - 3	SPRING:	Elizabeth, consort of Jonathan d. Jan. 21, 1821	83
2		William d. Dec. 17, 1843	65
5		Mary, his wife d. Aug. 28, 1814	29
4		Mary C., their dau. d. Oct. 23, 1814	4 mos.
6		Eunice, his 2nd wife d. April 12, 1823	36
VI - 7	STIMPSON:	Daniel d. Aug. 2, 1843	69
8		Sally, his relict d. Aug. 31, 1851	77
5		Lydia, their dau. d. Oct. 16, 1831	19
6		Sally, their dau. d. Oct. 14, 1825	18
VI - 2	STIMSON:	Daniel 1805-1875	70/4/22
4		Susan Elizabeth, his wife d. Aug. 28, 1846	22
3		Olin, son of Daniel and Anna d. Sept. 1, 1853	2 mos./11
II - 8	TRAIN:	Arthur d. Oct. 31, 1811	40
5		Enoch d. Nov. 24, 1805	43
3		Enoch, his and Hannah's son d. Oct. 22, 1796	1
4		Harriot, his and Hannah's dau. d. Feb. 6, 1797	3
15		Mary d. Oct. 14, 1821	33
18		Nahum d. Dec. 2, 1808	49
17		Louisa, his wife d. Sept. 12, 1800	33
19		Lucy, his 2nd wife d. March 6, 1836	72
16		Nahum, son of Nathan & Louisa d. Apr. 15, 1810	11
2		Samuel (Deacon) d. Oct. 3, 1838	93
1		Deborah, his wife d. Mar. 4, 1825	81
7		Betsey, their dau. d. Feb. 10, 1797	9
IX - 11		Samuel d. Aug. 25, 1845	60
12		Harriet, his wife d. Mar. 4, 1842	52
II - 6		Harriot, their dau. d. Jan. 7, 1815	2
IX - 10		Nahum d. Aug. 24, 1840	29
	TRAVIS:	**Infant d. Oct. 22, 1905	
		**Hosea Dec. 7, 1930	1 day
VII - 2	UNDERWOOD:	Esther Harrington, wife of Benjamin, d. Jan. 30, 1865	93
XII - 2	WALCOTT:	*Etta d. Oct. 26, 1946	
XI - 6	WALTON:	*James L. 1867 - Jan. 17, 1946 (maybe "Jennie L.")	
VIII - 10	WESTON:	Eliphalet d. May 23, 1950	55
near n.e. corner	WHITCOMB:	Levi d. Nov. 1859	57
		Anna, his wife d. Dec. 2, 1856	57
XI - 1	WRIGHT:	*Florence E. d. Sept. 4, 1968	

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome into our membership to Mrs. Anne Bemis of 36 Church Street, Mrs. Michael Deland of 13 Hidden Road, Mrs. Thomas W. Dunn of 324 Merriam Street, Mrs. Allyn T. Gilbert at 95 Jericho Road, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Hines of 752 Wellesley Street, and Mrs. Patricia Smith of 23 Rolling Lane. Steady membership growth is stimulating, and when you invite your neighbors to join our Society, you are offering them the best kind of opportunity to know and enjoy the exceptional community of which they are a part.

ONE MYSTERY CLOSER TO SOLUTION

In our last issue, we made reference to the "Washington Passed This Place" tablet that is a part of the low stonewall just west of the Josiah Smith Tavern on the Old Boston Post Road facing the Town Green. We heard from no one, but while parking October 10th in front of the Watertown Public Library, our eyes espied a similar tablet at the edge of the sidewalk. Unlike ours in Weston, its lower half was intact and our photograph clearly reveals the following statement thereon: "Erected by Mass. Society S. A. R.
July 2, 1914".

THE WESTON CORNET BAND

February 6, 1876 - June 17, 1880: A Short History

"We, whose names are affixed to this paper, wishing to organize and maintain a Brass Band, and wishing also, that it may have a decided form and character, hereby do promise to attend all Band meetings, whether for practise or business, regularly and promptly, as far as may be possible; to pay all assessments which may be levied; and to obey all rules and regulations of said Band, which rules and regulations shall be voted upon, and approved, by at least two-thirds (2/3) of all the members. – Also to be responsible for our several instruments; and, in short, to do our best to make our Band a success, and a credit to ourselves, and our town."

The first of 31 signatures, almost too faint to recognize now, was that of Joseph B. Knox who subsequently served as leader. Others in the order of their appearance were: C. F. Ellis, Clarinet; Chas. T. Hemingway, Piccolo; Geo. P. Cauldwell, E. Flat Cornet; Horace E. Smith E Flat Cornet; Frank Clancy, E Flat Cornet; Chas. W. U. Ellis, B Flat Cornet; W. H. Coburn, B Flat Cornet; G. F. Williams, B Flat Cornet, E. Jennings, B Flat Cornet; J. L. Cobb, E Flat Alto; H. E. Jones, E Flat Alto; E. Schwartz, B Flat Tenor; H. P. Heard, B Flat Tenor; H. J. Jennison, B Flat Bass; Henry J. Hall, Side Drum; Edward L. Cutting, E Flat Bass; Albert E. Coburn, Cymbals; W. H. Jennings, B Flat Cornet; Theodore Jones, Bass Drum; Henry W. Caldwell, Side Drum; E. P. Upham, E Flat Tuba; L. H. Crane, Baritone; Daniel Smith; T. C. Richardson, B Flat Tenor; Horace Skelton, E Flat Alto; Charles C. Kenney, B Flat Clarinet; T. Henry Crane, B Flat Bass; W. H. Campbell, E Flat Bass; Arthur Jennison, E Flat Alto, and Milton A. Stone, B Flat Cornet.

Edward L. Cutting served as the first secretary, was first succeeded by H. E. Jones in 1877, and finally by Charles T. Hemenway whose minutes of the June 17, 1880 meeting are the final record in a neatly bound book presented to the Society recently by Mr. Harrison Ripley of Groton, son of the late Edward P. Ripley, grandson of the late "Mr. G.A.R." Francis Ripley, and nephew of the late Emma Ripley author of *Weston: A Puritan Town*".

Here are a few choice excerpts from the "Secretary's Record":

Feb. 6, 1876: "Messrs. J.S.B. Knox, Geo. P. Caldwell, and J. Frank Ellis were appointed to draw up a paper to the effect that each member shall be responsible for his part of the band property. . . ." "Returned to practice."

March 1, 1876: "Voted: to exempt the leader from all fines and assessments."
"Voted: to instruct the leader to purchase Band Books."
"Voted to allow the leader to use his own discretion about the price of books."

April 27, 1876: "Voted: that hereafter no person not a member of the band shall be admitted to the bandroom during practice hours except he or she be passed in by a member of the band and said member shall be responsible for his or her behavior."

May 19, 1876: "Mr. E. Coburn in behalf of the town invited the band to participate in decorating the soldiers' graves . . . Voted: to accept the invitation."

May 26, 1876: "Voted that a committee of three be chosen to arrange a programme for Decoration Day and appoint a competent person to act as Marshall of the Day."

June 14, 1877: "Voted; to accept the invitation of the chairman of the Selectmen of Weston to participate in the celebration of July 4, 1876." Also, "Voted: to accept the invitation of the Baptist Society to attend the Strawberry Festival in their Vestry this evening."

Sep. 7, 1876: "Voted: to buy uniforms not to exceed in cost eleven ($11.) in case the Band got an engagement." "The sense of the meeting was taken as to the price of playing, and all were willing to play for two and one half ($2.50) dollars per day. The majority of the band were willing to play for less than the above sum in case that could not be obtained."

Sep. 11, 1876: "Voted to have the coats trimmed with red cord and gold lace, three rows of gilt buttons on the front, and six buttons on the tail." "Voted: to adopt white belts. The sense of the meeting was that dark pants were preferable to light blue." . . . . . "Voted: to have the pants trimmed with red cord on outside of leg."

"Wednesday Evening Oct. 4, 1876 the band attended a party at Gen'l. C. J. Paine's and gave a concert, after which, Gen'l Paine provided a supper."

Mon. Eve Feb. 19, 1877: "voted; that all members of the band should wear their coats buttoned to the chin while playing Feb. 22nd."

Feb. 26, 1877: "Voted: to go to Sudbury Wed. eve Mar. 7 with the Avon Dramatic Club of Wayland provided conveyances are furnished."

"Voted that any member who gets intoxicated while the band has an engagement, or while in uniform, shall be expelled."

Apr. 2, 1877: "Voted to accept ---- ------- -----'s resignation . . and the Secretary be authorized to consult a lawyer, provided Mr. ------- refuse to return band property." Voted: that Mr. ------- be placed on trial for one (1) month, that he be allowed to play at rehearsals but not in case of any engagement of the band."

April 23, 1877: "A letter from Mr. --- . . . . . was read. Voted: to reconsider vote whereby it was voted to consult a lawyer, provided Mr. . . . . refused to return band property. Voted: to lay question relating to Mr. . . . . .'s uniform on the table." "Voted not to adjourn. Voted to adjourn."

Apr. 30, 1877: "The examining committee reported favorably on Mr. . . . . 's name and he was reinstated." . . . "The vote to compel every member to remain in the hall while band was practicing was lost."

June 18, 1877: "Voted to accept Mr. and Mrs. Edward Coburn's invitation to give a concert at their residence on Thurs. eve, June 21."

"Voted: to furnish music for Mr. Merriam's Barn Party for twenty-five dollars. Voted; to return to practice."

March 21, 1878: "Voted: that Janitor be instructed to stop card playing in the hall during Band rehearsals." . . . . "Voted: to accept the invitation to play at the dedication of the new School House Saturday, April 6, 1878."

Nov. 21, 1878: "The Band attended the reception given Mr. Alonzo S. Fiske at his residence in Weston, in honor of his election to represent the town in the next Legislature."

Feb. 24, 1879: "Voted that when we adjourn, we adjourn to meet at the call of the Secretary of the Treasurer."

"The Band played in Weston Decoration Day for which they received ($40) forty dollars."

September 21, 1879 the Band serenaded Mr. Benjamin Cutter at his house in Weston and were entertained in fine manner by him."

October 6, 1879: The Weston Cornet Band adjourned its meetings until further notice."

The Band played in Weston Decoration Day for which they received twenty-five dollars.

A meeting of the Band was held June 17th, 1880. It was voted at that meeting to divide the balance in the treasury making a dividend of 37 cents and adjourn the meeting to an indefinite time."

Editor's note: Though the band had its origin at virtually the outset of the nation's Centennial commemoration of the Revolutionary War no reference thereto is to be noted in the record book of its 4½ year existence.

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER APRIL 25TH

Mark Tuesday evening, April 25th on your new calendar right now and plan to attend the annual charter anniversary dinner, a gala event, featuring delicious food and traditional sociability in the attractive hall of St. Peter's Church. Distinguished speaker will be Mr. Walter Muir Whitehill. Details will appear in our March issue. Be sure to save the date.

QUINCY SOCIETY HOSTS BAY STATE WINTER MEETING JANUARY 14TH

The Quincy Historical Society is preparing a warm welcome to all members of the Bay State Historical League on Saturday, January 14th. The historic museum and other world-famous homes will welcome you as a member of our Society whether or not you are an individual, or associate, member of the League. If you are interested in accompanying us, call Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1028 for details. Weston should have a large group join representatives from over 300 other historical societies of the Commonwealth in this lively and friendly occasion.

IN MEMORIAM

With great sadness and in renewed gratitude for their lives and loyalty, we record the deaths of the following members:

Mrs. Harold A. (Rita) Allen, Mr. Paul R. Allen, Mr. Clarence D. Blake, Mr. Raymond W. Coburn, Mrs. Horace W. (Charlotte) Cole, Mr. William W. Gallagher, Jr., Mr. Patrick B. O'Toole, and Mrs. David H. (Janice) Reid. Each was a genuine friend who enriched this great little town of ours with many distinctive contributions. We shall miss them, but their spirit will continue to inspire and motivate us all.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley

Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell

Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon

Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson

Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: Individual $5 Family $8 (includes children under 21)

Life: $250 per person

Gift memberships are suggested.

Make checks payable and mail to

Weston Historical Society, Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Additional copies of *THE BULLETIN* at 50c each, plus postage, may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533. Relatives and friends might find them interesting too.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1978 Vol. XIV, No. 3

THE ISAAC FISKE LAW OFFICE

6 days after the great 1978 Blizzard, this picture of our 173 year old headquarters was taken on Abraham Lincoln's 169th birthday.

CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER TUESDAY APRIL 25TH

The traditional annual Charter Anniversary Dinner will be held on Tuesday evening, April 25th, in the attractive Undercroft of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. A social hour at 6:30 will precede the dinner which Mrs. Reginald Wells and her hospitality committee promise us will be "the best ever."

A special mailing will be sent to you prior to the event, but be sure to mark your calendar now and, if you desire, phone your reservations to Mrs. Wells at 899-1616 or Mr. Payson, Treasurer at 899-1802. Here's a chance for you to bring new members and have them meet so many of Weston's outstanding citizens who have done so much to make and preserve our town through one of the Commonwealth's most outstanding historical societies. The Charter Anniversary Dinner has always been the high spot of the year when everybody enjoys a good time, a good meal and stimulating lecture of "just the right length." For many of us it will be the fifteenth consecutive occasion of its kind and we remember well our previous guest speakers who, chronologically were, Gilbert L. Beane, Roland Robbins, Robert Pike, Roger Webb, Col. E. P. Hamilton, Brenton H. Dickson, David Little, Edward Snow, Earle Shuttleworth, Dean Fales, Stephen T. Riley, Dr. Richard Howard, Dr. Howard Jefferson, and Louis Tucker.

COME WITH US TO WORCESTER AND LONGMEADOW

Much has been said in previous issues of the privileges and pleasures that are open to all of our members through the Society's membership in the Bay State Historical League which, this year, is celebrating its Diamond Anniversary. More than 350 local historical societies throughout Massachusetts support this great organization which was founded in 1903. It maintains an office year round in Room 27 of the State House and acts as a clearing house for all types of services along historical lines through its affiliation with similar state and national organizations. Four meetings are held annually throughout the state, and several of us have enjoyed those in all parts of the Commonwealth from Nantucket to Stockbridge, Newburyport to Uxbridge, Fitchburg to Falmouth, etc. Despite the storm on January 14th, the meeting at Quincy was one of the best ever held. Much is to be learned about the host community and what it is doing. Even more, the inspiration of hearing stimulating speakers, attending panel discussion groups, viewing special exhibits, visiting local historic shrines, and exchanging ideas with our contemporaries send us home keener than ever to help keep our own Town outstanding and in the van. Individual memberships at nominal figures are available, and Weston has more than a dozen of such, including a former vice president and two directors. You nevertheless as a Weston Historical Society member are entitled and urged anyway to come with us Saturday April 15th at Worcester and June 17th at Longmeadow. For details and transportation advice, phone our Liaison Chairman, Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1098.

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last issue three of our distinguished members have died: Alice Cooper Bailey, Coline Ingersoll Woodworth, and Richard H. Field. Two were longtime residents of Weston, and each contributed a great deal to the well being of our community, active in its organizations and ever supportive of the best for Weston. Mrs. Bailey was an author of note, and Mr. Field a former Selectman and Moderator of the Town, an able and respected member of the Harvard Law School faculty. Mrs. Woodworth came to Weston five years ago, joined our Society, and immediately proved to be one of our most co-operative helpers in many ways.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: "THE SOUTH BURYING GROUND"

For safe keeping in the archives of the Town of Weston, THE BULLETIN has presented to the Weston Historical Commission, the original map, duly attested,—the preliminary chart,—and voluminous working papers that had involved months of research and culminated in the four-page story of *"THE SOUTH BURYING GROUND"* which was a major feature of our last issue. This material supplements similar data given to the Commission in 1974 on Weston's two oldest cemeteries, THE FARMERS' BURYING GROUND and THE CENTRE BURIAL GROUND, both on the Boston Post Road.

At our well-attended winter meeting preceding Mr. Charles Childs' outstanding lecture last January 21st, President Stephen T. Riley called attention to the enlargement, 16 inches high and 24 inches wide which has been made on acid-free, durable, and high quality paper. A limited number of exact replicas are available at $3 each. One such copy, protected by glare-proof glass, is being set in a walnut frame, ½ inch wide, to be hung in our rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern. Copies will be presented to the Town Library and to the Cemetery and Park Department of the Town.

If any of our members would be interested in acquiring copies for themselves or as gifts to friends, schools, other organizations or societies, you may phone either the Editor at 899-4515 or the Curator at 894-2872. Already one member has purchased copies for presentation to two of New England's most renowned historical organizations, and we suspect there are many descendants of oldtime Weston residents named on the chart whose future generations would cherish such an heirloom. As only a limited number are available, we suggest prompt ordering if you are interested.

"GLORIOUS INTELLIGENCE"

Today,—195 years later when instant communication is commonplace,—it may be hard to appreciate the sensation created on the cobblestone streets of Boston Tuesday the 1st of April, 1783 by the appearance of *"GLORIOUS INTELLIGENCE."* Printed and sold by JOHN GILL, Court Street, it brought the news that only 71 days before, on Monday the 20th of January, "the PRELIMINARIES to a GENERAL PEACE" had been signed in far off Paris by the Commissioners of Great Britain, France, Spain, Holland, and the United States of America! Hostilities were to cease in Europe a month later, "Thursday the 20th of February" and "in America," after still another month, "on Thursday the 20th of March in the present year . . ."

A French sloop of war embarked from Cadiz February 19th and "after a passage of 32 days" arrived in Philadelphia on Sunday, March 23rd. By express rider, one Lewis Morris, New York heard the news 2 days later. Within a week thereafter John Gill's "GLORIOUS INTELLIGENCE" spread the word throughout Boston and surrounding communities, including Weston. For those days, how fast the news had traveled! The Massachusetts Historical Society has in its archives an original copy of that historic publication, and our president, Stephen T. Riley, its former director, has favored us with a photostatic copy whose thrill-packed details may be examined in our rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern Wednesday afternoons, or at other times by appointment.

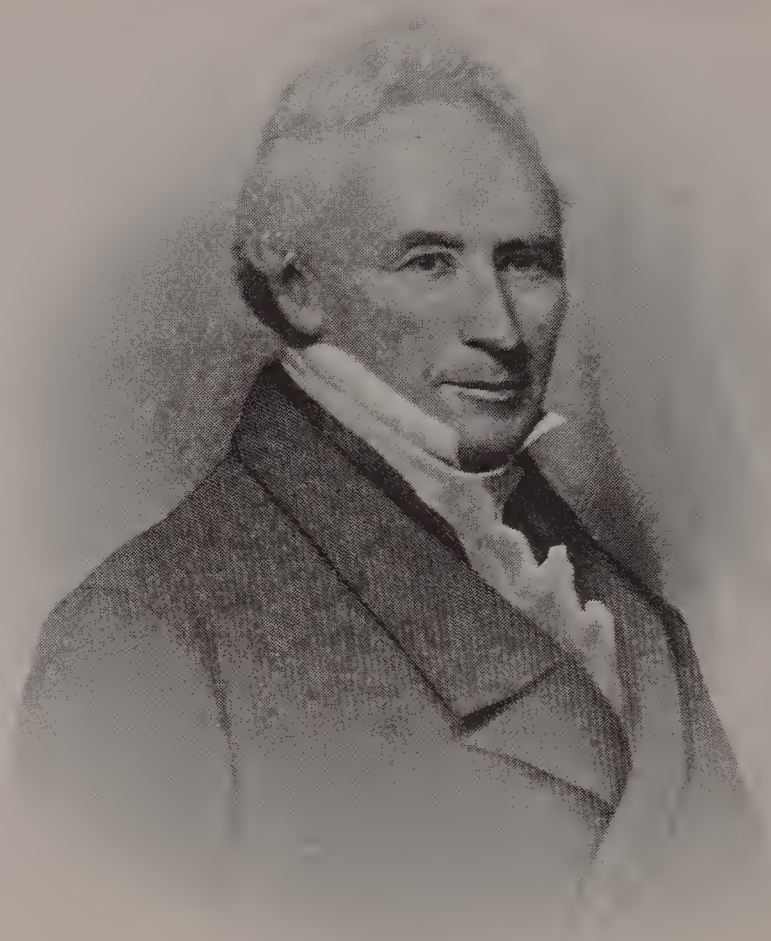
Especially precious to us is the note in his own handwriting that Weston's greatest Patriot, Samuel Phillips Savage, appended as follows:

> *"This is kept for future Generations, tho it cannot by any means convey to them, the Joy so happy an Event gave us, who heard the first guns fired, at Lexington & Concord, and saw Charlestown in Flames, and who have endured and supported a Struggle of near 20 years and an actual cruel and bloody war from 19 April 1775 until the arrival of a French Cutter called the Triumph, commanded by the Chevalier Duquesne on the 25th (sic) March 1783 at Chester in the River Delawar from Cadiz – for which happy Event may America be properly thankfull –*
>
> *(s) Sam Phps Savage then 65 years old"*

"WE ARE YOUR ANCESTORS"

We are your ancestors.
We are forgotten – but ever present.
We are unknown – but inescapable.
We are spurned – but still with and within you.
We are the men and women who long ago
Put ourselves into the bloodstream of the world.
At long and laborious labor we shaped the civilization of our time – not even aware we were also shaping yours.
Those of your day who make your laws must first study ours.
The architects who build your houses must first begin mastering our knowledge of line and form.
Those who fight your wars first plot on maps the way we fought ours.
That which you learn by patient work and thought you often find we have discovered ahead of you.
By a multitude of invisible but potent hands we reach out and change you.
We are your ancestors."

A classmate sent us the above by one P. R. Hayward.



LETTER FROM ARTEMAS WARD TO ISAAC FISKE

Boston Septm^{r} 27th 1817

Dear Sir

I intended to have some conversation with you, upon the subject of your acceptance of the office of the Register of Probate and your arrangements with relation to it, before I left Concord, but my departure was earlier than I contemplated, until the court dispose of the petition of Prebble and others, without argument.

It is not at all surprising to me that you should find some difficulty in deciding whether or not to leave Weston and take the office of Register, as a permanent arrangement – to reside at Weston for a reasonable period and hold on upon your professional business, and exercise the office of Register of P I should think would be acquiesced in; but I should doubt whether it would be acceptable to the county as a lasting state of things.

It is my wish and expectation that you will pursue that career which your own interest requires. This is one of the rights of man. But when you have done the best which you can for yourself, it is my wish that your influence may be used for Samuel B. Barrell. In any event which may happen, I think his interest can be served without prejudice to your own.

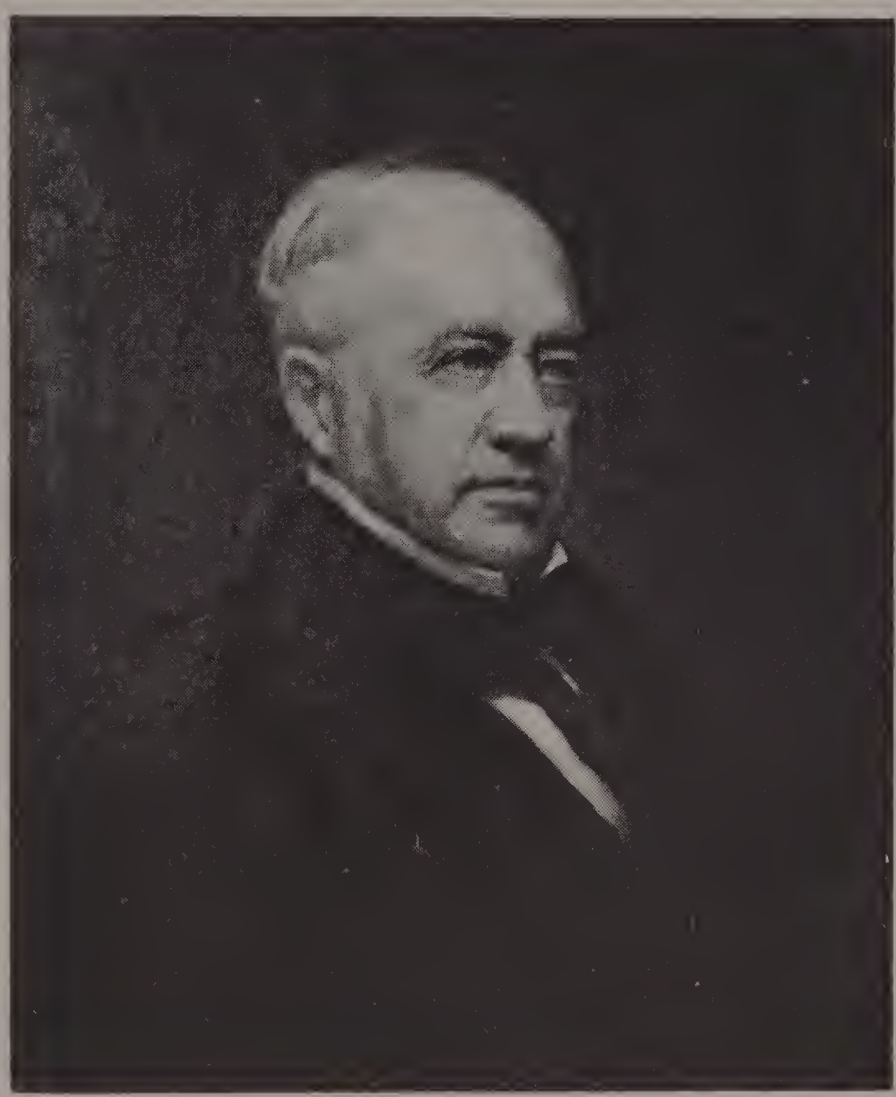
Should you soon quit Weston, and take up your residence in Cambridge or Charlestown, and abandon the local business in Weston, he will consider it a favor, if you afford him that patronage, which you can extend to a resident there, without injury to your business at Cambridge. Should you think it doubtful whether you should continue to hold the office of Register and should not move from Weston, you will probably want a confidential, faithful and capable clerk in the office at Cambridge. This Barrell would accept with the following views, i.e., if you finally conclude to come to Cambridge he will take your office in Weston; if you abandon the Registers office, after making a full experiment, he will endeavor to give such evidence of his competency to discharge the duties of the office as to entitle him to the recommendation as your successor. He is a native of Middlesex and has for the most part resided in that county and now has his domicile in Charlestown. He writes a very handsome fair hand, is very industrious and has

a knowledge of principles which renders him competent to the office. Though at present he is not sufficiently known to compete with some of the late candidates for the office, he thinks he can give the necessary evidence of his competency before you would abandon it.

I am respectfully yours
Artemas Ward

Isaac Fiske, Esq.

The above was transcribed from the original by our Society's historian, Brenton H. Dickson. It might be appropriate to add a few words about writer and recipient, for both were longtime servants in important capacities. We don't know what became of young Mr. Barrell. It is sufficient to say that he came not to Weston.



ISAAC FISKE

Isaac Fiske, whose 1805 law office was restored by us a dozen years ago and is our official headquarters at 626 Boston Post Road, was born in Weston in 1778 and died here 82 years later in 1861. Graduating from Harvard in 1798, he studied law in Ward's office and was admitted to the bar in 1802. He married Sukey Hobbs of Hobbs Corner in the Kendal Green section on Nov. 7, 1802, and by 1805 had built the beautiful house which is now owned by the Horace Nichols family and is located diagonally across the street from his law office which was built about the same time. He was probably Weston's most prominent citizen in his era, being Register of Probate, Middlesex County, from 1817 to 1851, living part of the time in Cambridge but never ceasing to play a leading part in town affairs. He was Selectman in 1808, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, and 1814, – representative to the General Court in 1808, 1812, 1813, and 1814, – and Town Clerk from 1804 to 1808, 1810 to 1812, 1819 to 1821, and 1824 to 1827. As a money lender and real estate trader he was known as a rich and benevolent gentleman. Four of his great, great grandsons are charter members of our Society and all are seventh generation residents of the Town: – Brenton H. and Edward M. Dickson, – Andrew J. and Harold B. Willis, Jr.

ARTEMAS WARD IN WESTON

Artemas Ward, Jr., son of the famous Revolutionary War general, was born in Shrewsbury January 9, 1762 and died in Boston Oct. 7, 1847. Graduating from Harvard in 1783, he began the practise of law and came to Weston in late 1788 where for the next dozen years he served prominently in many capacities, being Selectman in 1792, 1796, 1797, 1798, and 1800, our Representative to the General Court from 1796 to 1800 inclusive, and Town Treasurer in both 1798 and 1800. He was commander of the Weston Light Infantry from 1789 until his resignation on March 31, 1793. As an active lawyer, he represented the town in numerous other ways.

WARD'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE DEXTER FAMILY

On December 14th, 1788 he married Catherine Maria Dexter, daughter of Samuel Dexter, also listed as "then a resident of Weston". It is appropriate here to interpose some long overdue recognition to the Dexter family which to date, Homer Lucas reminds us, has been mentioned but seldom in local history. Samuel Dexter was born 1726 in Dedham and died 1810 in Mendon. A wellknown biography describes him as a merchant and Revolutionary War Patriot. He had a son who bore his name, Samuel Dexter, born 1761 in Boston and died 1816 in Athens, New York, a graduate of Harvard in the class of 1781, two years before his brother-in-law, Artemas Ward. Almost instantly young Dexter rose to eminence in the legal profession with residence in Charlestown and his public service comprised "Federalist Congressman from Massachusetts 1793-1795, – U.S. Senator 1799-1800, – Secretary of War 1800, – and Secretary of the Treasury from January 1801 to January 1802." Small wonder that he, "Hon. Samuel Dexter", so closely identified with the John Adams administration, should have represented Weston in welcoming President Adams to our town in mid-August 1798 when, as related on Pages 116 and 117 of Lamson's History of Weston, his paper was "signed by the following prominent persons among many: Samuel Dexter (Ward's father-in-law, no doubt), Thomas Marshall, Samuel Kendall, Isaac Jones, Artemas Ward, Amos Bancroft, and Caleb Haywood."

In Town records, Samuel Dexter appears regularly from 1789 through 1800 as a heavy taxpayer on "Personal Estate" but never on real estate, giving some slight grounds for suspecting that he might have lived with his daughter and her husband in the "elegant yet homelike mansion" (mentioned in Ripley's "Weston a Puritan Town") at 543 Boston Post Road. Now owned by the W. Donald Campbells, it was built in 1785 by the Eaton brothers from whom Ward bought it shortly after his marriage in 1788.

ARTEMAS WARD IN BOSTON

When his brother-in-law became so involved in Washington, Ward moved from Weston to Charlestown to take his place. Young Fiske, 16 years his junior, presumably picked up most of his local business. One of the last acts by Ward as a Weston official might well have been the signing as "Principal Assessor" of a condensed paper under "THE DIRECT TAX OF 1798", levied by the U.S. Government, which listed Samuel Dexter of Charlestown in the "non-resident" section, as the owner of 7 acres of Weston land valued at $310. While in Charlestown, Ward was a member of the Executive Council in 1803, 1804, 1805, 1808, and 1809. In 1810 he became a citizen of Boston for the remaining 37 years of his life. From that point he served in the General Court in 1811, and represented Boston in the 13th and 14th Congress, 1813-1817. In 1819 he became judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Boston, and in 1821 was appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for the Commonwealth. From 1810 to 1844 he was a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College, and was awarded its honorary LLD degree.

Note: In addition to local publications mentioned, some of the information used in the above article was derived in "THE DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY, VOL. V.", and "THE HISTORY OF MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, VOL. 1." H. G. T.

A SINISTER ULTIMATUM TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF WESTON

"WE COMMAND YOU TO TAKE THE BODYS . . . AND THEM COMMIT UNTO OUR GAOL"

BECAUSE *The Inhabitants of the Town of Weston* in our County of *Middlesex* on the *Nineteenth* Day of *November* in the Year of our LORD *1787* before me *William Fisk* Esq. one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of *Middlesex* acknowledged *by non-appearance* that *they were* indebted to *Samuel Emerson* of *Groton* in the County of *Middlesex, Gentleman,* in the Sum of *Six pounds three Shillings & eleven pence* which they ought to have paid on the *Nineteenth* Day of *October* last and there now appears to be due *Six pounds three Shillings and eleven pence, –*

£ 6-3-11-
1-3-2
———
7 7-1
– 2-0
———
7 - 9 - 1
3. 12 . 0
———
3. 17. 1

WE command you therefore, that of the Goods, Chattles, or Real Estate of *said Inhabitants* within your Precinct, you cause to be paid and satisfied unto the said *Emerson* at the Value thereof in Money, the aforesaid Sum of *Six pounds three Shillings & eleven pence,* together with *Twenty-three Shillings & two pence* Costs of Process, and *two Shillings* for this Writ *& Duty* and thereof also satisfy yourself your own lawful Fees. And, for the want of Goods, Chattels, or Real Estate of the said *Inhabitants* within your Precinct, to satisfy the Sums aforesaid, and your said Fees, We command you to take the body*s* of the said *Inhabitants,* and *them* commit unto our Gaol in our County of *Middlesex* aforesaid, there to be detained in the said Gaol until *they* pay the full Sums above-said, with your said Fees, or that the said *Inhabitants* be discharged by the said *Emerson* the Creditor, or otherwise by Order of Law. Hereof fail not, and make return of this Writ, with your Doings thereon, unto the above-said *William Fisk* within Ninety Days from the Date hereof. Witness the said *William Fisk* at *Waltham*, the *Seventeenth* Day of *January,* in the Year of our LORD, 17*88.*

(s) *William Fisk*

N.B. The Debtors have a right to discharge the above Execution by tender of Real & personal Estate to be received by the Creditor at an apprized Value agreeable to Law.

The threatened incarceraton of the entire Weston populace was averted, of course, as attested below:

Middlesex . . Jany 21st, 1788

Received of Colonel Samuel Lamson Treasurer for the Town of Weston by the hand of Mr. Nathan Fiske three pounds twelve shillings in part discharge of the within Execution.

Artemas Ward Jun. Atty. for Emerson

Feb. 29, 1788

Rec.^{d} the Balance due on this Execution and gave a Receipt.

Artemas Ward Jun. Atty. for Emerson

Nov. 7th 1788

Rec'd the Damage in the within Execution

Samuel Emerson Creditor

RAMBLING THROUGH FILES OF YORE

Little tidbits from random papers in the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society lend themselves to various conjectures. Witness the following from our own Captain Baldwin in the summer of 1767 wherein he ordered a musical instrument for the entertainment perhaps of guests at his tavern, from the versatile Samuel Phillips Savage, "Weston's most prominent patriot."

Previous Weston Historical Society BULLETINS have made many references to these two prominent gentlemen, especially our issues of October 1973, March 1974, and January 1975.

Mr. Savage

Sir

Pleas Let the Barrer
have one Voial or Fidle & Charge

it to your Humble Sevt Saml Baldwin
Weston July 21 1767

to Mr. Saml Ph Savage

A REMINDER

ENSURE YOUR RECEIPT OF "THE BULLETIN" AND OTHER SOCIETY COMMUNICATIONS BY:

1. KEEPING YOUR DUES PAID UP
2. NOTIFYING US IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGE IN YOUR ADDRESS, LOCAL AS WELL AS OUT OF TOWN.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel W. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis 899-4515

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: Individual $5 Family $8 (includes children under 21)
Life: $250 per person
Gift memberships are suggested.
Make checks payable and mail to
Weston Historical Society, Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193

Additional copies of *THE BULLETIN* at 50c each, plus postage, may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533. Relatives and friends might find them interesting too.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1978 Vol. XIV, No. 4

THE ARTEMAS WARD HOUSE IN WESTON
AT 543 BOSTON POST ROAD

Though built in 1785 by the two Eaton brothers, it was bought three years later by Artemas Ward, Jr., shortly after his marriage to Catharine Maria Dexter. In 1836 it was acquired by a Weston resident, Benjamin Peirce (1819-1872), and remained in his family for 78 years during which time it became temporarily known as "Lilac Farm." His daughter, Mary Frances Peirce, was the seventh of his ten children and survived them all. When she died at age 83 in 1914, the estate passed into the hands of Joseph Seabury who moved the house back to its present position on the knoll from which it more quietly surveys the passing scene.

THE UNTOLD STORY OF MARY FRANCES PEIRCE

Since the 19th Century's last decade, residents of Weston and their descendants have increasingly owed a tremendous vote of thanks to Mary Frances Peirce whose four great publications of and for the Town of Weston are listed below. These volumes represent years and years of ingenious, intelligent, and persistent research with never any slackening of her zeal for perfection and preservation.

1893: "Records of the First Precinct, 1746-1754 (now mostly the Town of Lincoln—Ed) And of the Town of Weston, – Records of the Town Clerk 1804-1826."

1894: "Town of Weston, Records of the Town Clerk 1804-1826."

1897: "Tax Lists, Town of Weston 1757-1827."

1901: "Births, Marriages, Deaths 1707-1850
(Gravestones 1703-1900)
(Church Records 1709-1825)."

Continued on Page 4

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE COMES TO WESTON NEXT APRIL

At the Worcester meeting of the Bay State Historical League on Saturday, April 15th, it was announced that the invitation of our Board of Directors to host the League's meeting next April has been gratefully and unanimously accepted. Weston Historical Society has been a member of the 75-year-old League since our incorporation 15 years ago. Three of our members are past directors or officers of that outstanding organization to which more than 300 local historical societies and commissions are also affiliated with combined membership representing a minimum of 50,000 citizens of Massachusetts, all dedicated to the preservation and promotion of our historical heritage.

Those who were at Worcester on April 15th enjoyed a good day of seeing, hearing, learning, and greeting old and new friends of similar interests from all over the Commonwealth. The next meeting will be at Longmeadow on Saturday, June 17th, while Duxbury will host us on October 14th. As a member of our Society, you individually are welcomed at all League affairs. Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1098 will gladly supply fuller information and endeavor to be helpful regarding transportation.

THE CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER WAS GREAT!

A large crowd of members and their guests turned out Tuesday evening, April 25th, for the traditional Charter Anniversary Dinner, fifteenth of its kind. The Undercroft of St. Peter's Episcopal Church was attractively decorated for the occasion. Sherry and a social hour preceded the dinner. Our distinguished guest speaker was Thomas Boylston Adams, past president of the Massachusetts Historical Society, whose comments on the recent *"Adams Chronicles"* which had been viewed by millions of Americans, provided us with new insights and sidelights. As direct descendant of two presidents and an historian of note, he spoke authoritatively in a charming and witty manner.

AN AFTERNOON AT THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY LOOK FORWARD TO JUNE 23RD!

Members of our Society have been honored by an invitation from Mr. Louis L. Tucker, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society at 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, to be his guest at "AN AFTERNOON AT OUR NATION'S OLDEST HISTORICAL SOCIETY" on Friday afternoon, June twenty-third at two o'clock. Mr. Tucker will be remembered pleasantly as the speaker at our Charter Anniversary Dinner a year ago, shortly after having succeeded our President, Stephen T. Riley, as Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society. After a few appropriate remarks, he will conduct with Mr. Riley a tour of the building. It should be of enormous interest to us all.

To be guided by two such knowledgable authorities through this world-famous setting is a rare treat for those of us who will have that privilege. Perhaps not all of our members realize that Stephen Riley's entire career since college comprised 42 years of distinguished service to the Massachusetts Historical Society. In 1947 he was promoted to the position of Librarian and in 1957 he headed the institution as Director until his retirement at the end of 1976.

It is suggested, since parking facilities are limited, that you arrange with other members to organize pool cars. Also, your attention is particularly called to the convenience of parking at Riverside or Woodland, and traveling by M.T.A. From the AUDITORIUM station, you are only two short blocks from 1154 Boylston. Let's all have a great afternoon together on June 23rd.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

With real pleasure we welcome into our membership Mr. and Mrs. Elmer O. Cappers, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hamilton, and Mrs. Laura E. Hersum, – all of Weston, – and Mr. Charles D. Childs of Acton whose illustrated lecture on "American Art as The Artist Has Seen It" made our February 1st meeting so enjoyable, –Mr. Frederick S. Kenney of Templeton, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Oliver of Boston, and Mr. Richard B. Peirce of Wellesley Hills, nephew of the late Mary Frances Peirce.

THE TELEPHONE IN WESTON

Quotations were gathered by Homer C. Lucas from items mostly in the Waltham Free Press. Editorial comments are by Brenton H. Dickson.

1875: The human voice was first transmitted over electrical wires.

1877: The first "outdoor" telephone line was constructed from Boston to Somerville.

1878: Mr. Francis Blake of Weston invented the BLAKE TRANSMITTER which amplified the voice to the extent where telephony became practical. He was made a director of Bell Telephone Company which later became the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and remained a director until his death, January 19, 1913.

March 28, 1884

"A patent for a switchboard has been issued to Mr. Francis Blake."

December 3, 1886

"The telephone has been removed from the store of Mr. Cutting. Mr. Cutting could not stand the expense that the telephone company proposed to charge him for what was much more of a public than a private convenience."

December 9, 1887

"Mr. Robert Winsor has had a private telephone put in."

September 28, 1888

"Nearly fifty telegraph and telephone wires run through Weston and yet there is no direct communication with the outside world. The people should agitate the matter and compel the telegraph and telephone company to do something!

"When there was a telephone station at Mr. Cutting's store it paid the corporation about $120 a year. This was enough and should have satisfied them. When they wanted Mr. Cutting to transact this business for nothing and pay them $50 a year besides, he very naturally concluded the 'game was not worth the powder' and the instrument was removed. If pressure is brought to bear in the right way we believe the people of Weston can have both telegraph and telephone service."

February 21, 1890

"We are informed that residents of Kendal Green or Lincoln who desire to communicate with Dr. Jackson of Weston can do so by the telephone at the organ factory."

In this same year: 1890: Mr. Francis Blake became a selectman of Weston and held that office until 1909.

November 20, 1891

"A public hearing on location of poles to residence of Mr. Case."

Also a "need for a public telephone which should be at Cuttings."

December 1, 1891

"The telephone line to Mr. Case's will probably run across lots and not by way of the road."

March 30, 1894

"Francis Blake has been re-elected one of the directors of the Bell Telephone Co. at its annual meeting in Boston."

Special Note: As the current year marks the Centennial of Mr. Blake's transmitter, it is appropriate to remind our readers of Mr. Dickson's article, "KEEWAYDIN AND THE TELEPHONE" which appeared in our October 1966 issue, Vol. III, No. 1. Therein he quoted Bell's famous assistant, Thomas A. Watson, who in his "Birth and Babyhood of the Telephone" declared: "Fortunately for my constitution, Frank Blake came along with his transmitter."

MARY FRANCES PEIRCE
1831–1914
SHE RESCUED AND PRESERVED THE RECORDS OF WESTON

Continued from Page 1

Mary Frances Peirce was born in Weston on June 9, 1831 and died here on July 26, 1914. Quite fittingly the family lot in which she is buried is located in the very heart of Linwood Cemetery where she lies not only with her parents and some of her brothers (4) and sisters (5) but is surrounded on all sides by families she knew and by their ancestors and descendants.

After graduating from Framingham State Normal School, she taught in Cambridge Latin School for 34 consecutive years, 1852-1886. Her subjects covered the unusually wide range of Arithmetic, Algebra, Book-keeping, Plane and Solid Geometry, Trigonometry, English Literature, French, Greek, Latin, History, Physics, Political Economy, and Rhetoric. Also as an unpaid labor of love, she made a card catalogue of every book in the school library. She was a collector of butterflies, coins, insects, minerals, shells, and stamps. Appreciative former students kept sending her coins and stamps from all over the world. She was an enthusiastic teacher via what would today be termed the Case Method of asking, showing, collecting, analyzing, discussing, etc. Because of failing health she retired to her native home, the "Artemas Ward House in Weston" and for the next 28 years of her life, made an incredible career of searching, sorting, and publishing Town Records that otherwise would have been irretrievably lost. One should read her letter to the Board of Selectmen as reproduced on Pages 17 to 21 inclusive of the Town Report for the year ending February 28, 1891 to gain insight into the confused disorder and misplaced, inadequate, and missing records she encountered at every turn. Her diligence was contagious and won her the commendation and cooperation of our Town fathers who on April 11, 1891 distributed through the mails of Weston and nearby towns a notice of a hundred dollar reward to anyone who could return the Town Records of Weston from 1712 to 1754 which, they suspected, might be in the possession "of a descendant of some former inhabitant of the town."

A dozen years ago while studying in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, we came upon a large bundle that contains hundreds of her working papers.

Mary
Frances
Pence
1831-1914

Lee Marsh

Part 1.2	**Type:** application/ms-tnef **Encoding:** base64

Subsequent references to them have been of inestimable help to several of us. As she mentioned in many letters, she also supplied that Society with records pertaining to towns other than Weston. In 1893 Arthur C. Goodell as Editor of the Commission on Publication of the Province Laws, wrote our Selectmen from the State House in Boston: "I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration of the extreme fidelity with which the work appears to have been performed . . . Weston is exceptionally fortunate to have one so admirably qualified to do this kind of work perfectly, as the modest editor of these records has shown herself to be." During the same year Robert T. Swan, Commissioner of Public Records, wrote the Board of Selectmen . . . "In my annual report for 1893 I have called attention to this action of Weston in the hope it may be an incentive to other towns to do likewise." Five years later Mr. Goodell wrote directly to Miss Peirce: "I repeat the town is fortunate in having its work done so thoroughly and intelligently, and you are to be felicitated upon the success of your great undertaking. I believe your work is unique and the most perfect work of the kind ever done in this state, and it gives me a sense of real satisfaction to know that the citizens of the small suburban towns of the Commonwealth are as intelligent and enterprising as their support of your labors prove them to be."

Through the years, the publications which she brought into being almost single-handedly without benefit of copier, computer, or even typewriter, have been consulted and appreciated by literally thousands of people from near and far. Copies may be readily seen in the rooms of the Weston Historical Society both at the Josiah Smith Tavern and in the Isaac Fiske Law Office, (our official headquarters), and of course at the Town Library and in the Archives at the Town Hall.

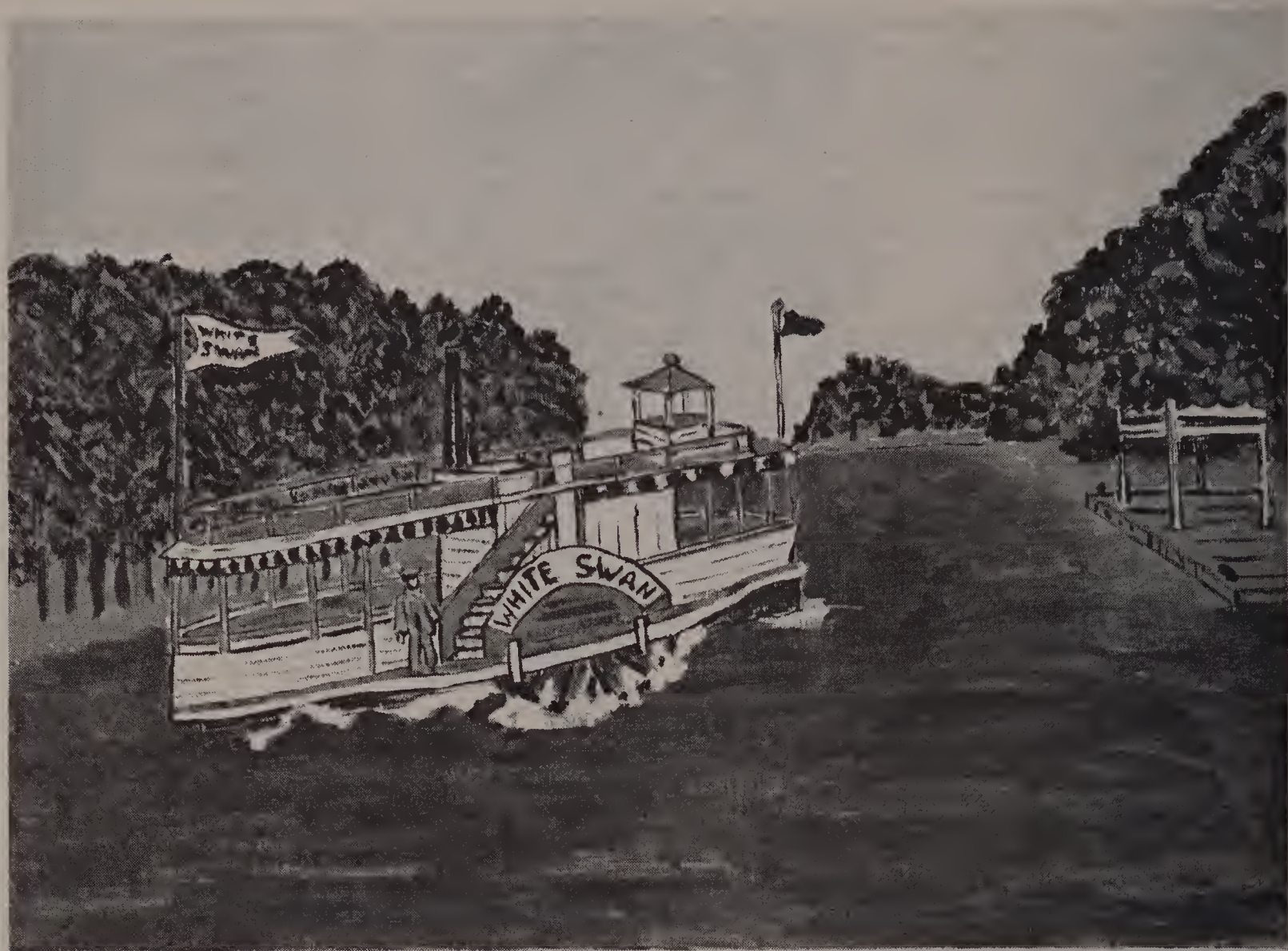
Perusal of the Weston Town Reports of the 1890's and early 1900's would be more fully revealing to our readers than are the scant excerpts. All of us can be grateful for the contributions of Mary Frances Peirce to Weston and for having stimulated through pioneer example, the rediscovery and preservation of similar town records in many other cities and towns of this Commonwealth. Her grand niece, Marjorie Childs Hunt of Newtonville, and her nephew, Richard Bartlett Peirce of Wellesley Hills, are members of our Society. We are grateful to them not only for the photographs which appear with this article but equally for their reminiscenses of her as "a gracious lady of the old school" whose personality was one of inspiring dedication, dignity, and warmth, – whose versatility as a researcher, recorder, editor, and teacher was nothing short of amazing.

On the list of those many Westonites to whom we of today and you of tomorrow owe so much for making and keeping Weston the exceptional town that it is, the name of Mary Frances Peirce must never be allowed to fade away or to be forgotten.

H. G. T.

THE BARN AND ADJOINING CARRIAGE AND TOOL SHED ABOUT 1870

Facing east and on higher ground, these two buildings had disappeared by the time Mr. Seabury moved the Artemas Ward House back from the roadside almost to their former location. Today only the well where the horses and cattle were "watered" in earlier days is still to be seen, though the well itself is, of course, no longer open. In the left background may be glimpsed the Parson Woodward House next door at 19 Concord Road.



STEAMBOAT ON THE CHARLES
"THE WHITE SWAN" 1873 – 1889

The primitive watercolor, photographed above, was painted by our versatile fellow member, James B. Muldoon. It sent us scurrying to the Waltham Public Library where after scanning the July 18, 1873 issue of the "Waltham Sentinel", we learned that "quite a large boat" had been brought into town "upon 3 or 4 wagons drawn by 6 horses", and was unloaded on the banks of the Charles just above the Moody Street Bridge, where the Middlesex Hotel stood in later years, "and we hear it is the property of Colonel Gibbs, the expressman." A week later another article described the launching which "came off at about 5 o'clock last Wednesday afternoon" and informed its readers, –"Now that the boat lays upon the water, the machinery will be put in and the decks and saloon arranged in fine trim." In the left margin, a neat hand had written in ink: "WHITE SWAN."

Longtime curator of the Waltham Historical Society, Marjorie Childs Hunt, an active member of our Society too, was contacted and sent along significant excerpts from articles by the late Percival M. Stone which had appeared in "The News Tribune" issues of July 30 and 31, 1948 under the heading "Steamboats on the Charles."

From these sources, a fascinating tale developed. When the pleasure boat which held 150 passengers was moved from Fresh Pond in Cambridge, "The Sentinel" had called her "the prettiest and largest steamer ever seen on the river." Though a novelty, it was not the first, for some years before, the 1873 account related, one "John Clark had a little steamer capable of carrying an engineer, captain, steward, and one (sic!) passenger, and for some weeks past there has been another steamer, owned by parties in Auburndale, plying up and down the river."

The sturdy side-wheeler made its "Trial Run" on August 28th, 1873. Regular passenger service was promptly inaugurated from what was then called "Steamboat Wharf" in the "Basin" this side of the Moody Street Bridge to Auburndale, docking we presume at Riverside where, 30 years later, ill-fated Charlie Tucker, of Mabel Page murder fame, was employed for a time. Colonel Gibbs, founder in 1846 of Gibbs Express Company, was warmly hailed as the new owner of "The White Swan." It was he who piloted her on the maiden voyage to Auburndale. Subsequently regular schedules were set up and main-

tained, with departures announced for 2:30, 4:30, and 7 P.M. through the spring, summer, and early fall. Brief stops were made at Lily Point (Roberts), and occasionally at the new Pumping Station then under construction. Round trips were 25c each.

Frequently it was chartered for special runs featuring the presence of the Waltham Watch Company Band. It is reported that stern measures sometimes had to be taken to "trim ship" whenever passengers gathered in large numbers at one side of the steamer. When in 1889 the new Prospect Street Bridge was opened, it proved impossible for the stack of "The White Swan" to pass under it safely, and the trim little vessel that had brought so much enjoyment to so many Westonites for 16 years was temporarily moored alongside the wharf at Moody Street. Eventually she was sold and broken up, – thus ending another phase of life along the Charles.

H. G. T.

SPRING AT LAST! DAFFODILS ARE HERE! LILACS ARE COMING!

When passing the Isaac Fiske Law Office, slow down and stop at the nearest available parking space. Look down to the oldfashioned bulb garden that's bursting into bloom. What a charming, secluded spot it is, even though close to the traffic of the busy Post Road. Cast your eyes southward toward Linwood Cemetery over the neat expanse of low-ground that gives motorists a passing glance of our headquarters from the far-off Route 20 By-pass. We've had many of them tell us: "Though we couldn't stop, you must have a beautiful town over there." Be proud of our natural and historic setting, – grateful to all those who are helping to keep Weston unspoiled despite so many pressures. Be thankful that there still are, and always will be, these green pastures and sacred spots that we can forever protect from despoliation.

COMING BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE MEETINGS

Saturday, June 17th at Longmeadow, and Saturday, October 14th at Duxbury. Call Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1098 for arrangements. Those of us who were at the Worcester meeting April 15th had a great time seeing, hearing, learning, and greeting old friends of similar interests from all over the Commonwealth.

AN APPEAL FOR COOPERATION

This issue of THE BULLETIN is its 56th. Vol. I, No. I appeared modestly in October 1964. The editorial on Page 1 said in part: "After two and a half centuries Weston at last has an historical society, 650 members strong . . . Think of the history that's buried here . . . of the stories these old cellar holes can tell! . . . Not many towns in the country have so much latent history available for re-discovery, restoration, and preservation. This Society will be what we of today make it. Then indeed will we leave to our children a heritage that is real and inspiring."

In the ensuing issues we have recorded some thrilling discoveries and many accomplishments. Yet we feel that we have only begun to skim the surface, despite several outstanding achievements along the old Boston Post Road and elsewhere throughout the town. Now with even a larger membership in a much larger town, it is all the more important that we enlist more members in order to ensure that on every road and street, we can count on guardians of the heritage we cherish.

Past copies of THE BULLETIN are very rare. If you have any that are extra, please be sure to bring them to the Josiah Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon, or phone Mrs. Paynter or the Editor at 899-3533 and 899-4515 respectively. We often get calls for back copies and it is better to send an original rather than a poor reproduction. We wonder how many of our members have a complete set of all 56. Has anyone contemplated having them bound into a single volume?

Remember that to make sure you don't miss a single copy of THE BULLETIN and other Society communications, you must keep your dues paid up, and also notify us in writing of any change in address, even though it may be inside of Weston itself from only one location to another. Your cooperation in all the above will be appreciated, because to keep costs down, we use "non-profit organization" mailing which is not forwardable.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE'S FALL MEETING AT DUXBURY OCTOBER 21ST LARGE CONTINGENT EXPECTED FROM WESTON FOR PLEASANT EVENT

The Duxbury Rural and Historical Society will host several hundred members of the Bay State Historical League's meeting on Saturday, October 21st. Get in touch with Mrs. Dumaine, Liaison Chairman, (899-1098) or any of our officers who will be glad to arrange pool cars in case you are in need of transportation. Advance reservations are recommended.

The host society includes several Westonians, and former residents who are still members of our Society too. Its president is James Otis Post, Jr., former Waylandite currently a director of the League. Of the League and of its meetings, he writes in the current Bay State Historical League Bulletin, Volume 4, Number 4: "The local host opens the treasures of the locality to the visitors. A wide choice is available, from seminars on common problems of historical societies, to field trips to historic sites, to participation in tours in company with congenial associates."

We have a dual purpose in urging Weston members to "come with us to Duxbury on the 21st." First, you'll have a short and easy drive to a place that's rich in history and in people dedicated to its preservation; you'll long remember the fun and fellowship that will characterize this gathering of kindred souls. And second, it's not too early to mention another great reason for your attendance.

Weston Historical Society itself has agreed to host the spring meeting next April, so the Duxbury pilgrimage will afford you an opportunity to get some ideas that will help us begin to frame and support a most attractive all-day program from nine in the morning to five in the afternoon. Weston knows how to put on a truly great day, and with all our resources, the directors feel sure of the active and enthusiastic support of each and every member. Come and observe with us at Duxbury on the 21st!

IN MEMORIAM

To the family of Mrs. Dean S. Edmonds, Jr. who lost her life in a tragic automobile accident a few months ago, we extend our most sincere sympathy.

ANOTHER BEQUEST SWELLS ENDOWMENT FUND INTO FIVE FIGURES

The Weston Historical Society's Endowment and Memorial Fund has passed the $10,000 mark with the receipt from the Estate of Almira M. Boltz of a generous four figure bequest. She and her husband, the late Peter D. Boltz, were charter members of the Society. In typical modesty, she gave us no inkling of her intentions which has made her gift seem to be all the more genuine, generous, inspiring, and meaningful.

As we have often explained, the principal of the Endowment Fund comprises not only Life Memberships, Memorial Gifts, and Special or Designated Contributions but also bequests such as the above and that of our beloved charter director, the late Mrs. Homer ("Betty") Sweet. An attractive two-fold advantage of gifts to Endowment is that by policy of the Directors, (1) the annual interest only therefrom may be expended for special causes which seem to be beyond the realm of routine operations and programs, but which, on their own special merit, do or will serve an unusually significant purpose of benefit to the Town through the Society's work; and that (2), the interest of the preceding year if not thus voted, is added automatically to the principal and thenceforth becomes "untouchable" except to the extent its own interest, then currently earned, allows.

The next time you add a codicil to *your* will, think of the Weston Historical Society. Meanwhile a $250 Life Membership, free thenceforth from annual dues, would be a nice Holiday, Birthday, or Friendship present to one you love, — even yourself!

WESTON AND THE STREET RAILWAY

"The publisher having travelled from Boston to Detroit, Mich., by trolley, studying the various lines, methods of operation and possibilities of business, is convinced that nowhere in the world is there a greater opportunity for the street railways to increase pleasure travel, nor anywhere for the trolley tourist to find such varying charms of landscape, historical spots and delightful rides as here in the old Bay State." . . . BY TROLLEY THROUGH EASTERN NEW ENGLAND: R. H. Derrah, 1904

Although the interurban street railway enjoyed only a brief existence, it was born with high hopes. Unlike the steam railroad whose stations were few and far between, the trolley car traveled along the street, picking up passengers at nearly every intersection. There was no competition from automobiles which were just playthings and too unreliable to be used as anything else.

Waltham and Newton were crisscrossed with streetcar tracks; — Wayland had its line connecting the village with Natick; Wellesley had lines to adjoining towns. Little wonder then that Weston felt neglected in not having its own modern transportation.

As early as the 1860's, Waltham had a horse car line which eventually went from Main Street to the Boston and Albany depot at West Newton; — then, with electrification, tracks were laid on many streets with lines running to Watertown, Newton, Lexington, etc. In 1890 the Waltham Free Press stated that "There is some talk about the extension of the electric railway service from Waltham through Church Street and down North Avenue to Waltham again. Several think such a road would pay."

Nothing further appears on this matter until 1899 when a public hearing was held at the Weston Town Hall on a petition of the Waltham, Weston, and Wayland Street Railway Corp. for locating tracks on Central Avenue, Weston, from Waltham to the Wayland line. Those speaking in favor of the location included Messrs. Alfred L. Cutting and Alphonso Dunn; those speaking against it were Messrs. Charles H. Fiske, Samuel C. Bennett, Charles F. Russell, and Robert Winsor.

Scrutiny of the 145 signatures on the petition showed that 76 were not property owners in Weston and that 20 of the 76 were not even registered voters, that many of the remaining 69 lived in remote parts of the town, and only 7 owned land abutting Central Avenue. Of the 106 votes recorded, 64 were in favor and 42 in opposition.

A public hearing was again held a year later, 1900, on another petition which met much opposition, and a majority of the board voted that the petitioners had leave to withdraw.

In the Town's 1902 annual report we find the Waltham Street Railway Co. and the Newton Street Railway Co. petitioning for an electric railway along North Avenue in Weston from the Waltham to the Lincoln line, and it appeared that the majority of real estate owners abutting the avenue were in favor of the proposed location. It also appeared that the town ways of Weston could be important links in the comprehensive street railway systems being developed through New England. The Board of Selectmen was convinced that in planning for future development, a double track system would be necessary, for the cars would be running at a rate of speed far in excess of the rate at which ordinary vehicles were limited by town law, and that the only way of avoiding danger to the general public would be to lay out the highway in accordance with a "boulevard plan" which reserved a space in the center of the highway for the street railway, with ample room on either side for vehicular and pedestrian use. The Board was influenced by the plan which had been granted by the Wellesley Selectmen to the Boston and Worcester Street Railway Co. in 1902.

The "boulevard plan" submitted for North Avenue required widening the road to 81 feet. This would provide 2 six-foot sidewalks, 2 roads for vehicular traffic, each 25 feet wide with a 25 foot right of way between them, to accommodate the double track system. The street railway company would pay all expenses of widening, altering, and locating the highway, and all land damages and drainage. The double track line would be of "T" rails weighing not less than 70 pounds to the yard, and crossings would be paved with granite. The ties would be 6 feet long, six inches wide and 6 inches thick; the poles or structures for conveying telegraph, telephone, and light wires as well and painted to protect them from decay, and of a height and diameter acceptable to the Selectmen. There would be adequate ballast for the rails, and all street crossings would be paved with first quality granite blocks. The fare for a passenger whose ride would be wholly within Weston could not exceed five cents, and no freight would be carried on the line. It is possible that stringent requirements were somewhat responsible for the Newton Street Railway's desire to abandon the project.

In 1907 The Boston, Waltham, and Western Electric Railroad Co. was organized. It was to go from Waltham to Marlboro. The Weston section would begin 1,000 feet north of Stony Brook railroad station and run westerly through private land to a point on Church Street just opposite

WHO'S GOING TO FIND THE WESTON OLDEST RESIDENT CANE?

In our October 1977 issue, Vol. XIV, No. 1, we noted that the last known holder of the now defunct Boston Post's gold-headed cane, was the late Francis Ripley, Weston's last Civil War survivor, who died in 1939. One of the Society's most prized possessions is the oil painting by Miss Gertrude Fiske, showing the old veteran proudly clutching that cane with both hands. Though a year has elapsed since our BULLETIN plea, no light has been shed on the missing cane, but hope springs eternal, especially since wider inquiry through the Bay State Historical League and otherwise, continues to uncover the whereabouts of similar canes from Stockbridge in the Berkshires to Falmouth on Cape Cod.

Last May 12th's *Falmouth Enterprise*, under the heading *"Boston Post Cane To Be Awarded Again,"* informed us that "After more than three years of inactivity, selectmen have decided to award again the gold-headed Boston Post Cane to the oldest Falmouth resident . . . The cane has been in a closet of the Selectmen's office since the death in December 1974 of Zana Swift in her 100th year. Until it was awarded to Mrs. Swift it had been held successively by 19 of Falmouth's eldest residents since 1909 . . . (It) started as a promotion by E. A. Grozier who gave out canes to 692 New England towns . . ."

A similar article in the Stockbridge section of Pittsfield's *Berkshire Eagle*, was received by us from Lillian Preiss, retired president of the Sheffield Historical Society. In part, it read: "In ceremonies Monday at 7:15 in the Town Hall, the town's oldest male, best known for having played the chimes in the Children's Chime Tower for the past 43 summers, will receive the gold-capped cane, traditionally held by the oldest male resident."

Wouldn't it be fun to find Weston's missing cane and watch a Selectman present it to our 101 year old charter member, Miss Anna Hall? The oldtime spirit of Old Weston would once more rise to the occasion!

NEW MEMBERS

A most hearty welcome is extended to our newest members: Miss Janet F. Brodie, Mr. and Mrs. William L. Crowe III, Mrs. Laura Hersum, and Dr. and Mrs. Edward C. Dyer.

GLEANINGS FROM YESTERYEAR'S NEWS

In the Kendal Green section of Weston news in the November 9th, 1906 *Waltham Free Press-Tribune*, we came across the following:

> *"Rev. E. H. Thresher, pastor of the M. E. Church here in 1888, 1889, and 1890 — now pastor at Newton Upper Falls — will preach here next Sunday morning. It is hoped that people will come to hear him."*

Under a Weston heading, the same paper's March 23rd, 1907 issue announced that "Dr. F. D. Hyde has moved his office to the old Golden Ball Inn." On the following July 18th, it noted: "The Tennyson (Tennis and? --Ed.) Racket Club had a good time on the river last Saturday afternoon and evening."

Finally its October 23rd issue informs us that "During the fall, the Selectmen of Weston fixed a speed limit of 10 miles per hour for School Street." Many complaints had been received from various riders and drivers that their horses had been badly frightened by horseless carriages which were beginning to roar over local roads.

WARTIME BURLESQUE IN THE OLD TOWN HALL!

Has anyone information about the 1861 benefit concert advertised below? This old handbill which is owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society, evokes and invites conjecture and speculation. Perhaps examination of press notices of that era will enlighten us. With tickets at 20 cents each, we wonder to what extent the "Benefit" prospered financially.

POSTPONED

UNTIL MONDAY EVENING.

PROGRAMME OF

TABLEAUX

....AND....

BURLESQUES!

—TO BE GIVEN AT THE—

TOWN HALL, - - - WESTON, MASS.,

....ON....

MONDAY EVENING, November 18, 1861,

—FOR THE—

BENEFIT OF THE

SOLDIERS OF THE NATIONAL ARMY

COMMENCING WITH A

BOHEMIAN GIPSEY SCENE,

—ENTITLED—

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST.

After which the following Tableaux :—

THE GODDESS OF LIBERTY!

Illustrations from the Poets!

THE CROSS AND THE CROWN;

THE TOMB SCENE IN ROMEO AND JULIET.

TO BE FOLLOWED BY

A BURLESQUE CONCERT, by a well-known Troupe.

After which the TABLEAUX—.

NIGHT & MORNING;

BERENGARIA at the TENT of RICHARD.

To be followed by the Comic Song—in character—

SIMON, THE CELLARER!

—AND CONCLUDING WITH—

POOR FILLICOODY

TICKETS 20 CENTS EACH, to be had at the door.

☞ Doors open at 7.....Entertainment to commence at 7 1-2 o'clock precisely. ☜

J. H & F. F. Farwell, Printers, 112 Washington Street, Boston.

1757 JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN "OPEN HOUSE" EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Our Curator, Mrs. James E. (Alice Tyler) Fraser, and her faithful committee, remind all members of the hearty welcome they will get any Wednesday afternoon. Keep abreast of acquisitions and improvements — up to date on all that's happening. If occasionally you can lend a helping hand, perhaps are looking for a project, seeking information or guidance, or just "dropping by," you'll get a friendly welcome. This historic building, oldest in downtown Weston, was operated continuously as a tavern for most of its first 91 years by Josiah Smith and his family. For the next 102 years it was a private residence although once in a while, town meetings were held in its ballroom upstairs in early times. After almost a century the home of Marshall and John Jones and their descendants, it became the property 28 years ago of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. It is leased by the Town of Weston and our Society occupies most of the original house. The abutting barn of the Josiah Smith Tavern was appropriately restored as a Bicentennial project by the Women's Community League and is a most attractive and useful adjunct. For a fuller account of the tavern where the Liberty Men gathered in Colonial times, see Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, January 1968: Vol. IV, No. 2, Pages 4-6 inclusive.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

Board of Directors

Brenton H. Dickson III '78; Roy L. Dickson '78; Mrs. Reginald W. Elwell '80; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '78; Homer C. Lucas '80; Edward W. Marshall '79; Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79; Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson '79; Stephen T. Riley '80; and Harold G. Travis '78.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family, including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcomed

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1 each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533 or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1979 Vol. XV, No. 2

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND TO THE TOWN WE SO PROUDLY HAIL AND SERVE

WESTON'S FIRST FIRE DEPARTMENT
HOOK AND LADDER NO. 1 ORGANIZED 1890
See Story on Page 3

PROGRAM COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THREE ATTRACTIVE COMING EVENTS

1. WINTER MEETING: February date to be announced.
   Speaker: *Kathryn C. Buhler*, well-known authority on American Silver, will give an illustrated lecture on that subject. Author of many books, she is Research Fellow on American Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Also she acts as Consultant to the Society of Colonial Dames.
2. SPRING MEETING IN WESTON OF BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE: April 21st.
   Our Society will play host to delegates representing almost 400 local Historical Societies and Commissions from all over the Commonwealth. All our members are invited to attend and to assist. See story on Page 2.
3. TRADITIONAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER in May.
   As usual it will be the high spot of our Society's year. Date, place, speaker, and other details will come to you in our next issue.

WESTON CHOSEN FOR BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE'S SPRING MEETING

As announced on Page 1, our Society has the honor of hosting the annual spring meeting of the 76 year old Bay State Historical League on Saturday, April 21st. At its December 12th meeting in the Josiah Smith Tavern, your board of directors approved the proposed program which will be worked out with League officials by our president, Mr. Riley. Many Westonians, all members of our Society, have been and are individual members and supporters of the League. Mr. Riley is a former vice president. Your editor and Mrs. F. Leslie Ford each successively served three year terms as directors in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Because of our Society's membership, you automatically are invited to attend all League meetings. The winter meeting is in nearby Lexington on Saturday, January 27th, at the Museum of our National Heritage. If you're able to attend, call Mrs. Dumaine at 899-1098.

The theme of the April meeting in Weston will be "THE COLLECTING AND PRESERVATION OF PAINTINGS AND PRINTS". Our fellow member, Charles D. Childs, who so delightfully gave us his illustrated lecture, "American Life as the Artist Has Seen It", (Vol. XIV, No. 2), will be one of four prominent discussion leaders. The others are:

Georgia B. Baumgardner, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts at the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, and

Mr. and Mrs. David Regamey, currently engaged as conservationists by the Massachusetts Historical Society and other institutions.

In view of the size of the affair, we are grateful that Regis College generously offered its facilities for the meeting and luncheon. The program is still in its early stages, but in general will be as follows:

9:00 A.M. — Registration, Coffee and doughnuts.

10:00 A.M. — *Welcome:* our President, Stephen T. Riley.
Brief History of Weston: our Historian, Brenton H. Dickson.
Business Meeting: Bay State Historical League.

12:30-1:30 — Luncheon

1:30-2:30 — Papers and Discussions:
"COLLECTING AND PRESERVATION OF PAINTINGS AND PRINTS".

2:30 — Tours to historic spots and places; i.e., Cardinal Spellman Stamp Museum, the Golden Ball Tavern, the Weston Historical Society rooms in the Josiah Smith Tavern and the Quilt Show in its adjoining barn, the Isaac Fiske Law Office, headquarters of the Society, and Weston Observatory.

4:30 — Reception in the Ball Room of the Josiah Smith Tavern.

Truly April 21st gives us all a rare opportunity to show Weston at its best. Resolve now to help — there is much to do, so please volunteer your time and talent. The following members are heading up some of the most important functions, and would be glad to hear from you.

Registration — Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine
Program — Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson with Mr. Riley
Publicity — John S. Hodges
"Open House", Josiah Smith Tavern — Mrs. J. E. Fraser
Hospitality — Mrs. Reginald D. Wells
Golden Ball Tavern Tour — Homer C. Lucas
Transportation — Edward W. Marshall and George S. Pink
Book Table — Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Dickson
The Quilt Show — Virginia C. Jones
"Open House", Isaac Fiske Law Office — Mesdames Lucas and Travis

ANOTHER UNTOLD PHASE OF WESTON HISTORY AND THERE ARE MANY MORE!

Pictured on Page One, through courtesy of fellow member Warren Vittum whose father and uncle are among the 17 figures shown, is the truck that was donated to the Town by the Hook and Hastings Organ Company in the early fall of the year 1890. That was when the Town had good reason to be alarmed by an epidemic of 13 fires set by a pyromaniac between April 21st and June 9th in the northwest section. Then in mid-summer when, as related in our March 1974 issue, Vol. X, No. 3, the historic Isaac Fiske (Baldwin Tavern) house was destroyed, everyone agreed "Something has to be done!"

We must express our deepest appreciation to our fellow-townsman, H. Bentley Crouch, for the courtesy he has extended in giving us access to the incredible amount of material he has collected and collated during the past three decades in respect to early fires of Weston during Colonial times through World War II, but which, because of its vastness, has not yet been published as it most surely should be. Let us give you the tiniest "sampling" of what's in that tremendous opus in the making!

"Early history of the town indicated that fire, while one of the Colonists' best friends, . . . could be used as a weapon against them . . . the only time the Indians penetrated (Weston) was in 1676 during their attacks on Sudbury. At this time they burned a barn in the western part of the town on land now fronting on Sudbury Road."

"Sep. 9, 1882: The house of J. B. Case, about a mile from the center of Weston, was destroyed on Tuesday night . . . loss about $20,000 . . . had been unoccupied and a hot fire was started in the furnace to dry the house. The Waltham Steamer did good service saving the barn. The Weston Dep't., — consisting of two old fire hooks, — was prompt on the spot."

"Sep. 7, 1883: The Silver Hill station of the Fitchburg R.R. was totally destroyed by first early last evening . . . caused by spark from passing locomotive . . . It is hoped the company will erect a better depot."

"Oct. 25, 1884, 12:15 A.M.: Hall's Shoddy Mill on Church Street at the Fitchburg R.R. Grade Crossing (later known as 'Kendal Green') was completely destroyed . . . loss - $18,000. The mill was of substantial size . . . following dimensions:

Mill - Main section - Wood - 3 story	119' x 36'
Mill - Ell section - Wood - 1 story	26' x 34'
Mill - Ell section - Wood - 1 story	32' x 34'
Picker House - Wood - 1 story	32' x 38'
Dye House - Brick - 1 story	36' x 38'

"Cause unknown - structure was immediately re-built only to burn down again for the final time almost exactly two years later, Oct. 23, 1886."

"One of the first recorded deaths by fire in Weston occurred on Nov. 7, 1885 when a blaze destroyed one of the boarding houses used by the contractors constructing the Stony Brook Reservoir, and fronting on Summer Street near River Street. Lantern overturned during drunken brawl and there were some 50 men in the building at the time. Through some miracle all but Patrick Sullivan escaped. Loss was set at $3,000."

"Another Weston death occurred in November 1889 when one Oscar Coburn, attempting to save several horses from a burning barn on Church Street at the location of the present (1974) Kendal Green Riding School, was trapped by falling timbers, and burned to death."

Who, now, will take the initiative in our younger generation, and tap these resources so that posterity never loses the thrilling story that can be told of fire, police, political, educational, and all other facets of "good old Weston"?

THE GOVERNOR'S 1771 THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION

WESTON'S SAVAGE RESENTED IT
MOST OF THE BOSTON MINISTERS REFUSED TO READ IT

Samuel Phillips Savage, Weston's renowned patriot, found the following 1771 Proclamation very distasteful:

By the Governor
A PROCLAMATION
For a Publick Thanksgiving

Forasmuch as the frequent Religious Observance of Days of Publick Thanksgiving tends to excite and preserve in our minds a due Sense of our Obligations to GOD, our daily Benefactor, the Mercies of whose common Providence are altogether unmerited by us.:

I have therefore thought fit to appoint, and I do, with the Advice of His Majesty's Council, appoint Thursday the Twenty first Day of November next, to be observed as a Day of Publick Thanksgiving throughout the Province, recommending to Ministers and People to assemble on that Day in the several Churches or Places for Religious worship, and to offer up their humble and hearty Thanks to Almighty GOD, for all the Instances of his Goodness and Loving-kindness to us in the Course of the Year past; more especially for that HE has been pleased to continue the Life and Health of our Sovereign Lord the KING — to increase His Illustrious Family by the Birth of a Prince — to succeed his Endeavours for preserving the Blessing of Peace to his Dominions, when threatened with the Judgment of War — to afford a good Measure of Health to the People of this Province — to continue to them their civil and religious Privileges — to enlarge and increase their Commerce — and to favour them with a remarkably plentiful Harvest.

AND I further recommend to the several Religious Assemblies aforesaid, to accompany their Thanksgivings with devout and fervent Prayers to the Giver of every good and perfect Gift, that we may be enabled to shew forth his Praise not only with our Lips, but in our Lives, by giving up ourselves to his Service, and by walking before Him in Holiness and Righteousness all our Days.

AND all servile Labour is forbidden on the said Day.

GIVEN at the Council Chamber in Boston, the twenty-third day of October, 1771, in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the Third, by the Grace of GOD, of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, KING, Defender of the Faith, etc.

By His Excellency's Command,
Tho's Flucker, Secr'y.

T. Hutchinson

GOD Save the KING

* * * \

Hutchinson relates (Hist., III.347) that in the autumn of 1771 his customary proclamation for an annual Thanksgiving was ill-received. Most of the Boston ministers refused to read it to their congregations, and several in the country. The Reverend Mr. Cook, uncle of Governor Hancock, took for his text on this occasion these words from the Book of Nehemiah (IX. 36, 37): *Behold, we are servants this day, and for the land that thou gavest unto our fathers to eat the fruit thereof, behold! we are servants in it; and it yieldeth much increase unto the kings whom thou hast set over us because of our sins; also they have dominion over our bodies, and over our cattle, at their pleasure, and we are in great distress.*

"We were therein called upon to give thanks for the continuance of our Civil and religious privileges, and for the increase of our trade and commerce. Such a palpable affront to the people who are daily complaining of the abridgement of their liberties and the burthens upon their Commerce, gave universal disgust, and the proclamation was treated with greater contempt than anything of the kind had ever been in this part of the world. Out of twenty congregations in this Town (Boston) it was read but in one, and even there by far the greater part of the people signified their contempt by leaving the Church the moment the Parson began to read it." (Letter of Palfrey to Wilkes, of October 30 and November 20). Quoted in John Gorham Palfrey, *History of New England* (Boston, 1905) Vol. 5, pp. 448-449.

The above two paragraphs, as does Samuel Phillips Savage's own reaction to the proclamation as expressed in the following, come to us through the courtesy of Stephen T. Riley and The Massachusetts Historical Society.

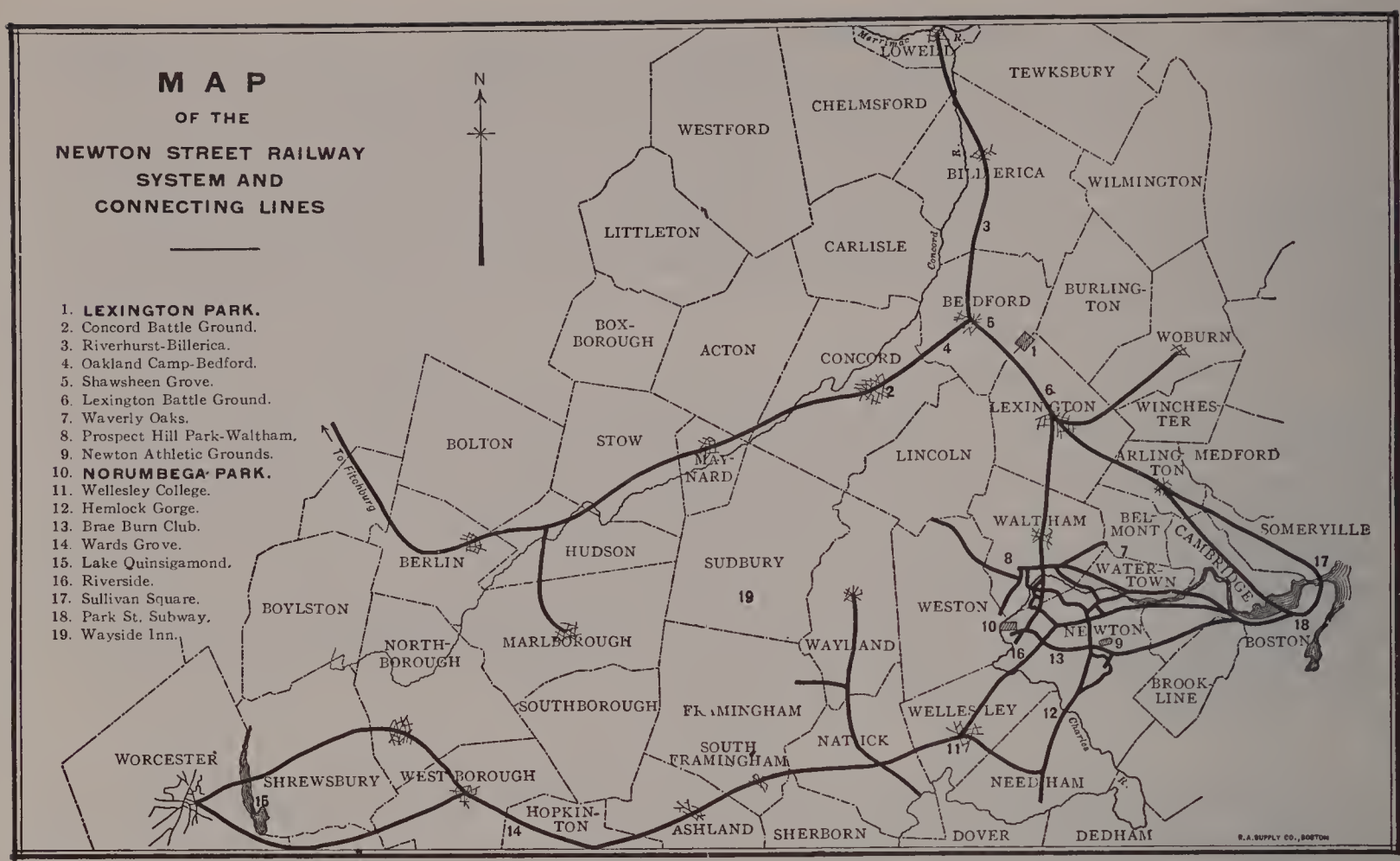
B.H.D.

Revd and Dr. Sr.:

I believe you think my Conduct in Saying what I did to you when I last Conversd with you needs an apology — I think it does — and that you will forgive it. I confess I felt a righteous Indignation at the Penman of the Proclamation for Inserting that Clause that we must (among other Mercies) thank God for the preservation of our rights and privlidges — I with pleasure own we are deeply Indebted to a Gracious God that we have the Enjoyment of aney Mercies and it is to his Munificence alone they are to be ascribed — but for the man who has been the Instrument of stripping nay tairing (tearing) away from us our dear Birthright Enjoyments to Order a day to be Solemnly set apart to return our thanks to Heaven for the Continuance of them is such a degree of Insult as cannot be borne — to feel the Calamity is affliction enough but to be tantalized afterwards is Intolerable and the man who can bear it must have more Virtue or less feelings than I have — Is it concevable that aney people under Heaven can be more abject slaves than they who are governed by one that is without their controul and who are under the awe of a Naval and Military force and is not that the Case of this unhappy afflicted Province — One would think was he to Judge by the style of the haughty Mandate (that) our Master thought he had our Consciences under his Controul as he has our civil rights. What think you of the man who can Calmly pen such a peice of religious Mockery —? I said it was an Insult on heaven and is it now — should one of the Stuart race ascend the British Throne and should a Proclamation be Issued from the Authority that this comes from to set apart a day for this people to offer up their praises to heaven for the distinguished Blessing I believe you would think it an Insult and rather than spread go to a stake — where lies the difference. They are both false — the present that our privlidges are preserved the other that it would be a Mercy — The times call on all to fall down with the deepest humiliation before God and acknowledge his righteousness in all the Evils we suffer with him the Judgment is Just but with the Instrument Base and Traitorous. While on the one hand we should kiss the rod and the righteous hand of heaven that afflicts we may on the other wish to see the heads of our Enemies brought by the Just hand of an Injured People to the Block or the Gallows.

While I am writing I feel my own Insignificence and my obscurity forbids my proceeding but as a Small member of this Province I am afflicted to see my Country Bleeding at almost every vein and to be wholly silent at such a time is Criminal — if I have transgresd forgive me by Imputing it to a Love of what I hold very dear rather than a desire of finding fault at those that govern — I revere Government and honor the ruler that is father of his people — but in the same proportion I dread slvery and abhor a Tyrant.

I am my Dear Sr. With great regard Yours &c.



Point "8" on above map shows
"THE LINE THAT NEVER WAS!"

MORE ABOUT THOSE LOCAL AND INTERURBAN TROLLEYS

The two nostalgic photographs which accompanied Brenton Dickson's article, *WESTON AND THE STREET RAILWAY* in our October BULLETIN, Vol. XV, No. 1, were supplied by our fellow member, Marjorie Childs Hunt of Newtonville, grandniece of Mary Frances Peirce (see BULLETIN, May 1978, Vol. XIV, No. 4). As longtime Curator of the Waltham Historical Society she recently allowed us to examine two fascinating but fragile 1908 publications, each about 6½" high and 4½" wide.

COUNTRY RIDES BY TROLLEY was published by the Rand Avery Supply of Boston for the Newton Street Railway of Newtonville. Both sides of the front and back covers honored its heaviest advertiser, NORUMBEGA PARK. The front cover comprised almost entirely an artist's drawing of an open, summer-season car under whose "Norumbega Park" sign at the front end proudly stood the trimly uniformed motorman with left hand on the brake throttle and the other on the speed regulator. Canoes on the Charles can be seen in the background and there's even a suggestion of Doublet Hill in Weston on the other side of the river. It well may have been a Sunday afternoon scene, because passengers sitting so erectly behind the pilot were immaculately dressed, ladies with hats and long dresses that touched the floor — their escorts with derbies, ties, coats and vests not ordinarily what would have been more appropriate for afternoon (or moonlight) canoeing.

Norumbega wanted, in its publicity, to promote high standards of attire and conduct. In its day it was one of the largest and most successful amusement parks in the country. Poor behavior and hard liquor, even beer, were not tolerated anywhere on the grounds, be it on the spacious dance floor or at the zoo with its bear pit, deer and elk parks and whose "Buffalo Enclosure" boasted of a complete family (bull, cow, and calf) of "the most perfect specimens of a race of animals nearly extinct." It is likely that the passengers shown on the cover were about to attend a performance on the famous Stage with its capacity for 3,000 — "the largest open-air theatre in the world" — rather than patronize the boathouse, merry-go-round, or swings.

The booklet's 64 pages described glamorous rides to "40 cities and town and points of interest" from Boston north as far as Lowell, and all the way to Worcester on the west. Picturesque prose and 19 photographs emphasized countless parks, reservations, and other readily accessible sights all over the northeast quarter of the Commonwealth. One page announced that "to those who wish to ride in greater luxury, the use of Parlor Cars can be obtained . . . of beautiful design, magnificent furniture, seating approximately 27, and can be used from any point on the local System to any point on a foreign road." Unfortunately, none of the photographs can feasibly be reproduced.

A two page double-spread map discloses how optimistic the advertising department proved to be in "jumping the gun" by locating the terminus at the Lincoln-Weston line instead of stopping at Stowe Street in Waltham, short of the Weston line. As the Dickson article relates, the extension by any route into Weston never materialized.

The second booklet, "Price 10¢", comprised 104 pages and was the 1908 official Street Railway Guide of New England, published by Rand Avery for the New England Street Railway Club, and entitled TROLLEY WAYFINDER. Routes and schedules were listed as far south as New York, thence northward on the west to North Adams, "downeast" to Portland and beyond, and even all the way to Monument Beach on Cape Cod. Almost 800 villages, towns, and cities were on the list and each time table itemized the mileage, fare, and transit time between points. Here are a few samples:

The 73 miles from Dudley Street Terminal, Boston, to Newport, Rhode Island cost only 95¢ but took 6 hours and four minutes. You could, of course, embark or disembark at any or all of the 28 intermediate points. The 47½ miles to Worcester from Park Street, Boston, cost 66¢ and took "only" 3 hours, 42 minutes. "Leave in the morning, return by dark, — what a wonderful way to spend a day!" The 81 mile trek to York Harbor, Maine, began to get expensive at $1.11 and unless you really were a natural born sightseer, it could have been tedious. Most long distance riders really enjoyed that sort of travel. In some cases they couldn't afford the "horseless carriages" or they wanted different views than the ones they had enjoyed by train. What a bargain the 175 miles from Boston to Lewiston, Maine, through Portland seemed. The charge of $2.61 figures just a hair less than 1½¢ per mile!

Thank you, Marjorie Childs Hunt for these glimpses you have given us. They prompt us to recall that in the city of our birth, a nickle took us "all the way downtown and back", and if we asked for a transfer when we boarded the vehicle, we could ride without extra charge to the cemetery in the next town where an older brother and some of our ancestors are buried.

H.G.T.

IN MEMORIAM

The recent death at the age of 102, of our charter member and the Town's oldest resident, Miss Anna Hall, represents a real loss not only to our Society but to the entire community as well. Mentally keen to the very last, she died peacefully at her home on North Avenue. Our memories of her are many, and our sense of obligation to her for many favors and for consistent encouragement is complete. The January 1977 BULLETIN, Vol. XIII, No. 2, carried a picture of her at the top of Page 5 under the heading "BICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS". She was seated on the knoll of Lamson Park in a group that was avidly "watching the parade go by!" To the end she prized, and indeed typified, the basic character and charm of old Weston.

WESTON QUILTS: OLD AND NEW

As announced elsewhere in this issue, a quilt show in the barn of the Josiah Smith Tavern will be held on Saturday, April 21st, in connection with the annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League, now in its 76th year. The deadline for submitting your entries is Monday, April 2nd.

The quilts should be owned by Weston residents but not necessarily made by them. Each entry should be documented, if possible, as to when made and by whom. It is hoped that the final showing will embrace a wide span of years from our country's early times to the present. If you have a quilt to loan for this noteworthy exhibit, please communicate promptly with "Ginny" Jones, 899-0177.

SURVEY OF OLD HOMES

Members are again invited to work with the Weston Historical Commission in its ongoing "Old House Study Group." On motion of our Society, the Commission was established as authorized under Section 8D, Chapter 697 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, at the annual Town Meeting of March 25, 1968. Its members, appointed as required, by the Selectmen of the Town, have been our fellow members, and we may well be proud of their capable and faithful work with which we often in the past have so happily cooperated. If you are able and interested in furthering this worthwhile study, please call its Chairman, Dorothy Ellis, at 894-3011.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

First we welcome into active membership, Messrs. Watson Grant Cutter who has moved here from Cambridge, and Charles P. Thomas, president of Wellesley Historical Society.

We also wish to express appreciation and gratitude to "the spirit of 76" faithful out-of-town members, most of them former residents, who now live in 13 states from Maine to California by way of Florida, and back via Wyoming and Michigan. Listed alphabetically these states are: Arizona (2); California (3); Connecticut (5); Florida (5); Maine (3); Massachusetts (42); Michigan (2); New Hampshire (4); New Jersey (2); New York (3); North Carolina (1); Vermont (3); and Wyoming (1).

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

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Brenton H. Dickson III '81; Roy L. Dickson '81; Mrs. Reginald W. Elwell '80; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '81; Homer C. Lucas '80; Edward W. Marshall '79; Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79; Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson '79; Stephen T. Riley '80; and Harold G. Travis '81.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family, including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcomed

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1 each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533 or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1979 Vol. XV, No. 3

THE BARN OF SEVEN CUPOLAS
ANOTHER HISTORIC AND PICTURESQUE LANDMARK OF WESTON

Pictured above is the north side of a late 18th Century barn to which were added, one by one during the 19th Century, two major extensions of comparable size, and a silo. Known in modern times as "The Wellington Barn", it is located on Wellesley Street between the Massachusetts Turnpike Underpass and the western end of Glen Road, across the street from the handsome and even more historic residence of its owner, our fellow charter member, Nancy Wellington (Mrs. Nicholas W.) Danforth.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE COMES HERE APRIL 21st
ALL OF OUR MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

For its 76th annual spring meeting on Saturday, April 21st, the Bay State Historical League will attract representatives from more than 300 historical societies and commissions throughout the State. As we are the host society, we urge each of our own members to attend. Since our incorporation in 1963, we have been a prominent member of the League and all of you, as members of our Society, have been invited automatically to attend the quarterly meetings of the League which are held at various places throughout the Commonwealth. Saturday, April 21st, offers us a rare opportunity not only to enjoy the lectures and view the exhibits but equally, to help our officers and directors host this statewide gathering of distinguished and friendly colleagues who share our concerns and interests in historical matters.

The following digest of proceedings and program for the day has been given to us by Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine who is in charge of registration. Call her for further details. She will put you in touch with the proper party if you are willing to volunteer to help us extend a welcome to our town that will live long in the minds of all.

> Members and Directors of the Weston Historical Society are completing plans for the day-long visit of the Bay State Historical League on Saturday, April 21. The theme of the morning program, which will be held in spacious Alumnae Hall at Regis College, is the *Collecting and Preservation of Paintings and Prints.*

Continued on page 6

RIDING AND TYING

In the seventeenth century before roads were suitable for wheeled vehicles, traveling was done either on horseback or on foot. Quoting **"One Town in the American Revolution: Weston Massachusetts"** we are told:

> An ingenious method of travel known as "riding and tying" made it possible for two to share a single horse. One person would ride an agreed distance, while the other followed on foot. At the end of the distance the rider would dismount, tie his horse to a tree, and walk on ahead. When his companion reached the horse, he would mount it, overtake his walking friend, and proceed to the next tying point. This technique gave both rider and horse a chance to get some rest and to travel all day without stopping.

The authors, Dickson and Lucas, had assumed that this custom had been permanently discontinued when roads became suitable for wheeled vehicles, but an article in a California magazine, *"Runner's World"* September 1978, has lately been called to their attention, which says in part:

> What sport is a cross between marathoning, motorcross, horse racing, football and chess? If you attended the 8th Annual Levi's **Ride and Tie**, you would have the answer. This year's rugged 35-mile wilderness course demanded the utmost endurance, toughness, equestrial skills, teamwork and strategy.
>
> "**Ride and Tie**" was originated by Levi Strauss & Company's director of corporate relations, Bud Johns, in 1971 and the sport combines the talents of a three-member team — a rider, runner, and a horse. The runner and rider start the race at the same time. At a predetermined spot along the trail the rider dismounts, ties the horse to a tree or post, and continues the course on foot. When the runner reaches the horse, he mounts and rides past his companion, and to another tying point. Several rides and ties are required and the first team with all the members to cross the finish line wins.

This differs from the 17th century system in that the 35-mile course is very rugged with bottleneck passages, loose rocks, steep hills and many other obstacles, including a 1400 foot climb out of a valley — and most of all, *competition.* In 1978 the speed of the winning team was approximately 8.5 m.p.h.

Moreover, the physical condition of both horses and runners is checked at various points along the way, and failure to pass means elimination from the race. This of course was unnecessary in the old days when riding and tying was utilitarian and not competitive.

B.H.D.

WHAT NEARBY SOCIETIES ARE DOING

Through Bay State Historical League's Calendar, members of Weston Historical Society are invited to many events. Currently here are a few examples:

March 6 — Dedham Historical Society: "The Fine Art of Collecting."
March 14 — Dorchester Historical Society: "The Early Boston Irish."
March 15 — Lowell Historical Society: "The Flood of 1936."
March 20 — Watertown Historical Society: "Life of a Sailor on *OLD IRONSIDES.*"
March 28 — Easton Historical Society: "Quilts, Coverlets, and Counterpanes."

Also the League's Workshop Committee has scheduled conferences as follows:

March 3 — Peabody Museum, Salem
April 7 — University of Massachusetts Library, Amherst
April 28 — American Studies Center, Boston College
May 5 — American Antiquarian Society, Worcester

If you are interested in attending, call either the local society or, in Weston, 899-4515. Better still, why not consider joining the League as an individual (associate) member so that not only its attractive BULLETIN but also its CALENDAR and other notices reach you directly and promptly?

Write to BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE
G.A.R. MEMORIAL ROOM #27, THE STATE HOUSE
BOSTON, MASS. 02135

THE MYSTERY OF THE ABEL ALLEN HOUSE*

Who could have been the able housewright who changed the primitive, one over one, homestead of Abel Allen to a two over two salt-box with the intricate winding stair? This change occurred about 1760 according to Philip W. Baker, the expert who renovated the house in 1961. Who cared for the house from its sale by Abel Allen's son, David, to Elisha Jones in 1758 until its purchase by Thomas Rand from the Commonwealth in 1781? David Allen was killed in 1760 at Louisbourg while in His Majesty's Service. The property of Elisha Jones, the Tory, was confiscated by the Commonwealth at his death in 1775.

Stephen T. Riley, Director of the Massachusetts Historical Society at the time, brought to our attention the Journal of Thomas Rand, (1752-1763), now owned by the Society. We read with great interest of Rand's work on the Samuel Woodward House (19 Concord Rd.), of his work for William Lawrence (208 Boston Post Rd.), and for Isaac Jones of the Golden Ball Tavern. We turned to the year 1759 with great expectation. There was inscribed an account of a major construction for John Allen. Could this account refer to work on the old Abel Allen House? Who was John Allen?

The account covered a period from 1759 to 1762 during which time Rand charged for 51⅓ days for himself and for 10 days for "fuller" (fellow) or "Richard" for "pullen down" and for building a house.

Items from the account:

"Mr. John Allen deter to Labor"

May 12 (1759)	"To myself to hue timber"
May 19	"to pullen down his house"
May 24-June 4	"framing"
June 5	"raised the house"
June 6	"to pining (pinning) of the frame and (?) the Sque (square) studs"
September 1759	"my team and myself to Cambrig for brick"
October 1759	"to turning the arch bords 0/8/0."

The account was balanced March 8, 1760. Additional work and materials were listed for December 1760, January 1761, and August 1762.

This account records a major construction beginning in 1759. The date corresponds to that obtained from internal evidence by Philip W. Baker for the reconstruction of the Abel Allen House. He believes that about 1760 the old 1720 lean-to was torn down and that the two east rooms, the winding stair with the three small rooms and the new lean-to, extending the whole length of the house, were built.

Who was John Allen? Was he John (1699-1764), the second son of Abel? Research showed that it could not be he, for he had followed his elder brother, Robert, to Walpole.

There was another John Allen (1713-1790) son of Ebenezer, Abel's brother. This John in 1746 purchased a farm in Lancaster. However, the same year he sold the Lancaster property to his father and purchased in Weston his father's farm, whose western boundary touched the Abel Allen property. (Book 70, p. 511).

John Allen was active in the affairs of the town. He was assessor, tything man, constable, selectman and overseer of the poor. He was on the committee of inspection during the Revolution and was one of the two representatives of the town to frame the Constitution for the Commonwealth. He lived in Weston until 1780 when he removed to Fitzwilliam where he died at the age of 77. His leaving Weston occurred just one year before Rand purchased the Abel Allen farm from the Commonwealth.

John Allen was the only surviving male descendant of Abel Allen in Weston. He lived on an adjacent farm. He would be the logical one to be interested in the old family homestead which had belonged to his great-grandfather before 1685. Therefore, it seems possible that the house listed in Thomas Rand's Journal under the account of John Allen was the old Allen homestead and that the reconstruction about 1760 was done by the able housewright, Thomas Rand.

Frances V. Marshall

** See "The Oldest House in Weston" (1 Chestnut St.) in Weston Historical Society Bulletin, Oct. 1977, Vol. XIV #1.*

EIGHT EARLY INDENTURES OF EARLY WESTON

In the Archives of Weston is a leather-bound book entitled "Miscellaneous Papers of Weston, 1683-1769". Here are to be found records of 8 indentures which between 1757 and 1767 had been signed by the Selectmen of Weston and "two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace." Up to now, only one of these has had much publicity: a voluntary indenture which a teenager, Benjamin Brown, Jr., arranged on January 16, 1762 with Isaac Hobbs and Mary, his wife, as reprinted in full on Page 66 of Lamson's History of Weston, Massachusetts 1630-1890, and on Page 5 of Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, March 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 3. For a term of 5 years and 2 months he apprenticed himself to said Hobbs "to learn tanning and curreing Art, Trade or Mystery." The indenture was endorsed by his father* whose house just over the line in Lincoln on Conant Road, is even today marked with a plaque and until 8 years before, had actually been part of Weston's "second precinct."

The 7 additional indentures, beginning to show signs of age, are:

Year	Apprentice	Master	Art, Trade, or Mystery	Term
1757	*Phineas Jones*	*Nathan Jones*	*Husbandry*	*14 years, 20 days*
1757	*Roger Bigelo*	*Israel Whittemore*	*Husbandry*	*16 years*
1761	*William ?*	*James Mirick*	*Husbandry*	*3 years*
1761	*John Norcross*	*Jonas Harrington*	*Husbandry*	*18 years*
1763	*Hannah Hager*	*Thaddeus Spring*	*Household Business*	*11 years*
1767	*John Hager*	*Thomas Upham*	*Husbandry*	*6 years, 3 months*
1767	*Lucy Hager*	*Nathan Parkhurst*	*Household Business*	*13 years*

All seven of the above, unlike Brown, were designated as poor children. Their ranges in age were somewhat startling, for at the time of indenture, we note that of those 2 girls and 5 boys, John Norcross was 3, Lucy Hager and Roger Bigelo were 5, Hannah Hager and Phineas Jones 7, John Hager 14, and William (last name undecipherable) 18. The townspeople of Weston, according to Lamson on Page 32, were:

> *extremely watchful that no persons should be permitted within town limits who would be likely to become a charge or burden upon the town, and any inhabitant . . . who harbored any such person . . . was prosecuted . . . and responsible personally for all charges the town incurred.*

Our town records are indeed filled with the names of people who were warned out of town, — 4 in 1756, 5 in 1757, and 32 in 1771! Obviously Weston was not escaping the problem of the "wandering poor".

The prevention of poverty was of course the principal concern, but not the sole objective, of our own founding fathers. Whereas for example, two early English indentures, one of 1396 and another of 1414, made no mention of the master's obligation to teach "reading, writing, and cyphering", the earliest American indentures did — reflecting no doubt the Utopian ideals of such leaders as John Winthrop. In his "Notes on Life in Plymouth Colony," John Demos cites on Pages 76 and 77 the case of a wealthy man's daughter. He brings out a new angle - the fact that no social stigma was attached to servitude here. The same view is supported by Edmund S. Morgan in his 1944 book on "The Puritan Family" wherein this 17th century historian observes: "Wealthy and aristocratic parents showed no hesitation in making their children servants to their friends or even to strangers." The English "Poor Law" of 1601 had made it lawful for "wardens to apprentice all poor children, males until 24 years of age, females until 21 or marriage." American indentures reduced the age limitations to 21 and 18 respectively.

In addition to getting the customary two suits of apparel ("one new") at the conclusion of their terms, two of the seven Weston indentured servants were paid. In the case of Phineas Jones he was promised ten pounds, and John Hager 13 pounds, 6

* "Town of Weston Records of the First Precinct 1746-1764" notes that the Inhabitants of the Town voted on November 27, 1752 to "Return Deacon Brown their Hearty Thanks for his Generosity in Giving his Said Pew which is Joyning to the East Side of the Pulpit in the meeting house . . . so they may Give the Same to the Rev. Mr. Samll Woodwards and his Heirs as their Property." Ed.

shillings, and 8 pence by their respective masters. Conversely, the Selectmen agreed to pay Nathan Parkhurst 12 pounds for agreeing to raise 5 year old Lucy who was described as a poor child of the town whose widowed mother was "late of Weston but now removed to some distant parts."

While it is difficult to draw any conclusions from 8 indentures out of Weston's unknown number, each does show the consistent preoccupation of Puritans in creating a society which would escape the heavy burden of poor and undisciplined children, and instead would promote economic, political, and social homogeneity as the rule. A system that can be traced back to England's early 14th century and was brought to this country when the Virginia Company and the Council of New England picked up poor children off the streets of London in the early 17th century, could not have survived through the first third of the 19th century without having had real merit and substance. Had it continued, how would it fare, we wonder, in coping with today's welfare dilemma.

Editor's Note: The above article is a condensation of a thesis on "INDENTURES IN COLONIAL ENGLAND" by "Kathie" Sprole, a history major at Wellesley College. She and her husband, Frank Jared Sprole, both members of our society, reside in one of Weston's most historic houses. See our January 1969 BULLETIN, Vol. V, No. 2, Pages 4 and 5.

"MY Situation Lying So Far From the Meeting House . . ."

Five years after becoming a resident of Weston at the age of fifty, through the purchase of a farm at what is now 479 North Avenue, Samuel Phillips Savage wrote the following letter which speaks for itself and is reprinted through the courtesy of The Massachusetts Historical Society.

To the Select Men of Weston
Gentlemen- - - -

My Situation lying so far from the Meeting house in Weston hath induced me for several years past to attend Divine Worship at Lincoln, to which Chh I should before now have changed my Relation, had I not thought it an Impropriety to join with any Society in full Communion where I could not enjoy the Priviledge of chusing my own Minister, and of other Matters, which, to me, appear of Importance.

I have therefore thought of applying to the General Court in their approaching Session for so much of my Land being set of to Lincoln, as Lyeth north of the great County Road leading from Cambridge to Concord — and would beg the Favor of the Town of Weston to favor my Request.

Your inserting this Request in your next Warrant for calling a Town Meeting will be esteemed a Favor to me.

Gentlemen
Yr most hble Servant
Sam Phillips Savage

Weston
19 Feby 1770

We have no record of any action taken, or reply of any kind made, to this letter from "Weston's Greatest Patriot." Rather, we rejoice that when, at the age of 82, he died in Weston on December 9, 1797, he had lived out his days in Weston and is buried in our oldest cemetery, The Farmers' Burying Ground.

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue, we have welcomed into our Society Mrs. Roy Baker (nee Lamson) of St. Albans, Vermont, and our fellow townsmen Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Henderson, David B. Melville (life member), and Mrs. Roger B. Woodbury. Each of them has already made significant contributions to the town and our society in the form of substance, talent, and/or tradition that we are sure will prove the forerunners of happy association in the years ahead as we all strive to keep Weston among the leaders of "Towns That Care".

Continued from page 1

Charles D. Childs will speak at 10:30 following the business meeting of the League. His topic will be *"From Colony to Nation: Two Hundred Years of Collecting Paintings in New England."* The second paper of the morning session will be *"Prints for the Local Historical Society"*, presented by Georgia B. Bumgardner. Following luncheon at the college, David and Faith Regamey will talk on *"Preserving Oil Paintings: A Basic Study of the Restoration Process."*

From the conclusion of the meeting until the 4:30 reception in the Ball Room of the Josiah Smith Tavern, our guests will visit the Isaac Fiske Law Office, the Golden Ball Tavern, the Weston Observatory, and the Society's rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern. At the Fiske Law Office they will be welcomed by Mrs. Harold G. Travis and Mrs. Homer C. Lucas, while the Golden Ball Tavernkeeper Guides will lead tours at that historic landmark and museum.

Mrs. James E. Fraser, curator of our collections, plans to display some of our rarely seen costumes in the Society rooms of the Josiah Smith Tavern. Aunt Flora's Ballgown, given by Mrs. John (Cynthia Smith) Akers, will be on view, as will a Paris Ballgown worn by Mrs. John A. Paine Jr., daughter of its donor, the late Mrs. Henry W. Patterson. Special arrangements have been made by Father Skehan at Weston Observatory for small groups to tour the facilities there throughout the afternoon, to observe the work being done in seismology, geomagnetics, and the New England coal basins.

Simultaneously a major exhibition of quilts mounted by Mrs. Virginia C. Jones and her committee, will be on display in the Josiah Smith Tavern Barn, as more fully described in a separate article that follows.

"WESTON QUILTS: YESTERDAY AND TODAY"

Plans for the Quilt Show to be held in conjunction with the visit of the Bay State Historical League have expanded. The Josiah Smith Tavern Barn will be open to the general public on Friday afternoon, April 20th, and until 2 p.m. on Saturday, the 21st, when League members will arrive.

Mrs. Virginia C. Jones, 899-0177, is chairing the Quilt Committee, and would like to hear from more members of our Society who would be willing to loan their quilts for this exhibition. Facts relative to their history will make your quilts even more desirable. The deadline for calling her is Monday, April 2nd, to allow time for printing a short history of each entry.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1979 Vol. XV, No. 4

WESTON'S PRESENT TOWN HALL WAS BUILT IN 1917

On October 1, 1917 "the Selectmen at a meeting voted to accept the care and custody of the Town Hall" and at a special town meeting October 18, 1917, the Town voted to accept the final report of the Town Improvement Committee which stated:

> "Appended hereto is a statement of all charges in connection with the erection of the Town Hall. This shows an expenditure of $94,992.75 and thus completes the erection of the building with all bills paid within the original appropriation of $95,000."

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER WEDNESDAY, MAY 16 at 7:15 P.M.

Be sure to come early for the social hour at 6:15 which will precede our annual charter anniversary dinner in the charming Undercroft of St. Peter's Episcopal Church. This annual occasion has traditionally been the high point of the Society's activities. The large turnout, sociability everywhere abounding, the sherry hour followed by a luscious dinner arranged by our Hospitality Committee - all set the stage for our guest speaker, Andrew Oliver. The topic of his talk will be *"Travels and Travails of a Loyalist Refugee."*

A retired New York lawyer, Mr. Oliver lives in Boston and has close Weston ties, for his wife, the former Ruth Blake, was the granddaughter of Mr. Francis Blake. (See *"Keewaydin and The Telephone"*, Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, October 1966, Vol. III, No. 1). A graduate of Harvard College in 1928, his activities and affiliations include: officer and trustee of New York Historical Society, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston Athenaeum, Essex Institute, and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He is the author of 3 books on the portraits of John Adams, J. Q. Adams, and John Marshall, and editor of the "Journal of Samuel Curwen, Loyalist."

See back page for further details.

IN MEMORIAM

To the families of Margaret (Mrs. Harold) Alcaide and Ruth Nichols (Mrs. Donald) Wyman we express our most heartfelt sympathy. Each of these gracious and wholesome ladies made so many contributions not only to this Society but equally to the Town of Weston through its many civic organizations that we, too, are comforted and strengthened by remembering how much each of them did to make this community better and happier.

FURTHER SIDELIGHTS ON THE LIFE OF JUDGE SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE

Few Weston people had heard or read very much about the Town's Greatest Patriot until April 19, 1969 when, with Wayland Historical Society, we hosted the 66th annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. The principal address by Mr. Stephen T. Riley, one of our charter members, told of *"The Honorable Samuel Phillips Savage, A Westonian Prominent in the Revolution."* Subsequently a few of us became habitues of the remarkable library to be found at the Massachusetts Historical Society of which Mr. Riley, currently our president, was until his recent retirement, the Director. There under his guidance we were able to make some new discoveries relating to Weston's history.

Two pages of October 1973's BULLETIN, Vol. X, No. 1, were filled with extracts from "The Famous Diary of Weston's Samuel Phillips Savage," and we were moved to observe: "Some of us must soon dedicate ourselves to the proper and complete presentation of Savage's part in American history." Within 3 years 2 charter members, Brenton H. Dickson and Homer C. Lucas, brought forth a Bicentennial masterpiece: *"One Town in the American Revolution: Weston, Massachusetts."* By our own count, 33 of its almost 200 fascinating pages of text emphasized the outstanding leadership, liaison and counsel he gave to the cause of Liberty.

But Samuel Phillips Savage was even more than a great Patriot: he was a most versatile man. He came here ten years before the Revolution, and for the remaining 35 years of his life resided steadily on his farm which is now 479 North Avenue. (See picture opposite Page 127 in Lamson's *History of the Town of Weston Massachusetts 1630-1890.*) Recently the BULLETIN issues of March 1978, January and March 1979, have shared with you little extracts from the Massachusetts Historical Society's Collection of Savage papers, and we intend to print more of them, one or two at a time, in this and succeeding issues, hoping to provide further insight into his human side. May such random glimpses into his life as a Weston farmer, retailer of alcoholic beverages, insurance underwriter, justice of the peace, owner and operator of a grist mill, tireless correspondent, and diligent diarist, make enjoyable reading. In addition perhaps it may inspire and assist future researchers and writers.

ANOTHER SPLENDID GIFT

The directors recently voted to place into the Endowment Fund the unrestricted and unsolicited gift of one thousand dollars which was received by the Society from one of our members who prefers to be unmentioned. Such a spirit in voluntary giving is an inspiration to us all, and simply adds to the significance as well as to the value of our ever-growing Endowment Fund which comes from special gifts, bequests, and life memberships. The principal is left to grow unless the directors vote to use any part of the interest that may have accrued "in the past year" for an unusually worthy need or purpose. All contributions to the Society, including dues, are tax deductible.

CONGRATULATIONS

To our life member, Thomas D. Cabot, we offer felicitations in the publication of his 200 page autobiography: *"Beggar On Horseback"* which, we are told, has received widespread recognition by, and accolades from, a great many prominent national figures. This town of ours has produced many writers, the listing of whose works would indeed be impressive.

"WESTON AS IT USED TO BE"

"In the late 1940's my wife and some friends were in the railroad station at Waterbury Vermont, checking their equipment to go skiing in the Laurentian Mountains. A local bus driver came up to them and asked where they were from. "Massachusetts" was the reply. "What part of Massachusetts?" "Weston." "Oh-the piggery town" he exclaimed which gave them quite a start. It turned out that he had been a garbage collector in Cambridge and that he had taken many a load out to Weston piggeries of which there were three, one on the north side near the Cambridge Reservoir, one on the Post Road at Dean's Dairy, and a third on South Avenue at its junction with Winter Street, and they all stunk to high heaven! It's a wonder the Board of Health didn't put its foot down. When these piggeries finally ceased operation, Weston had lost its last toehold as an agricultural community and became strictly residential - one of the richest towns in the Commonwealth.

"This tendency toward "residentialism" had been apparent for many years. There were several large farms to be sure, but few where the owner was dependent on the soil for sustenance. Industrial establishments had been in town ever since the early days of saw mills and grist mills, but Weston was never endowed with much water power, and opportunities in real estate far exceeded those of industry as we gradually became a bedroom community.

"The more important industrial establishments were a large tannery on Hobbs Brook at Kendal Green, a factory that made school furniture on Four Mile Brook, Sibley Mills on Stony Brook that made industrial machinery, and finally the Hook and Hastings Organ factory in Kendal Green which didn't use water power and was the last to go — about 1930. Here quality organs were made and shipped all over the country.

"Besides these attempts at industrialization, the town had early become important as a shopping center — a place for those in the hinterland to do their shopping. Much trading took place in Weston Center at Lamson's Store. In the early days Boston was a hard place to reach from the west; either you had to go there by boat from Charlestown or take the long devious route via Roxbury Neck. So why put up with this inconvenience? You could do your shopping in Weston at the convergence of several important thorofares — the Old Connecticut Path, the Great Country Road (currently Boston Post Road), and the North County Road or today's North Avenue. The store did such a large business in dry goods that a tailor shop was set up next door where customers could order tailoring done on their newly purchased merchandise. But even more important than the dry goods business was the wet goods business that had long catered to thirsty transients and inebriate citizens. The first tavern in Weston opened about 1675; by the time of the American Revolution we find 8 liquor licenses issued to various dealers in Weston."

Editor's Note: The above paragraphs are the opening remarks of Brenton Dickson's amusing and informative address to some 200 visitors who came to Weston April 21st for the 76th annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. More than 50 of our members helped to make this occasion one of the happiest events in modern Weston history. They worked hard, well, and happily, earning and getting the thanks of the League and of the Town.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to introduce as new members of the Weston Historical Society Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Cary Armistead III and their little son Nathaniel - Mrs. E. K. Hunter - and Dr. Donald Wyman. The Armisteads and Mrs. Hunter, as newcomers to Weston, have already made many friends, while Dr. Wyman, as retired horticulturist of the Arnold Arboretum and well-known author of many books, has done much as a longtime resident and for many years a cemetery and park commissioner of the Town, in guiding us through preservation of natural beauty in our four cemeteries and especially Anniversary Parks at the School Street traffic light, Children's Park, Soldiers' Park, South Park, and the Town Green.

WESTON'S FIRST TOWN HALL, 1847-1917
HOUSED OUR FIRST HIGH SCHOOL AND OUR FIRST LIBRARY

By margin of 76 to 46, town meeting on June 7, 1847 approved its erection and furnishing. Its total cost was $4,078.62. Located on the northerly side of "The Town Meetinghouse Common", it was 60 feet long including the Colonnade, 40 feet deep, and 2 stories high. It abutted Lamson's (later Cutting's) Store on the west, a pound and a few horse sheds on the east. Its Doric columns faced the Cutting house across the Great Country Road where our present Library stands.

MISCELLANY FROM THE PAPERS OF "WESTON'S GREATEST PATRIOT"

Weston 1 March 1768

My dear Sir.

I purposed when I left Boston to have been there again this day but the bad travelling prevents: and thinking that dear Mr. Cooper might be glad to hear from Mrs. C--- I write this to send by the first Traveller that passes along.

I and everyone with me are surprisd at Mrs. C's behavior: a Calmness and Serenity, and I might add, an innocent Cheerfulness runs thro her whole Conduct; after Breakfast she generally retires for an hour or two to her Chamber, the rest of the day she is in the Family, makes no difficultys, and at present gives us as little Trouble as any person of Mrs. C---Character in Life could suppose. There is little at present in her behavior that indicates distress of Mind, and a bystander would rather take her for a model of Innocence Introduced into my Family for a pattern, than a person of whose Character is loaded with so much Infamy, where best known. Mr. Lawrence dined with me yesterday, and would from the tender affection he bears dr. Mr. Cooper, have urged her to a week's stay at his house, but I disliked his doing it at present, but desired him to make us another Visit in a few days, when an Opportunity should be given him for private Conversation with her, which he promised. The last Sabbath she designed for Church, but prevented by the weather. I mentioned one thing to Mr. Lawrence which you will be kind eno to answer me in very particularly---- our Sacrament is near at hand---and I told him she was, as I understand, denyd the participation of that holy Supper, on which he desird me to mention the Same to her, and desire her not to attend Church that day.--- What Mrs. C---'s sentiments may be on that Affair I know not, but would endeavor to act agreeable to them, as I trust they never will run atilt with my Conscience..-Mrs. Cooper is just come Down to Breakfast which prevents my enlarging further than giving my assured Respects to dr. Mr. C-- and believe me to be dr. sr.

Your friend & mt hble Servt

(s) Sam Ph Savage

To Rev. Samuel Cooper

Weston 27th May 1769

"Dear Sir:

"I last night receivd yours of the 22nd Inst. by Mrs. Savage. You begin with observing, the last time you saw me, you suspected I was offended with you, and that since you have been confirmed in that Suspicion; but seem to doubt whther I have any reason, or I have it is not a good one. I will tell my story and leave you to judge.

"You may remember, the morning of the day Mr. Turrell and I were together at your house and since the affair, I cam to your house alone, and told you that I owed several small Debts in Town amounting to about 300 or 350 £ O.T. and that I should be glad you would let me keep so much of the mony I was to pay you, for which I would give you any Satisfaction you desired. I believe I might mention that I had security that was Sufficient for that Sum in Town. Your reply, after a Short pause, was that you did not know how that might be, as you wanted that mony for your Brother Bulfinch, adding in the same breath, and repeating of it almost immediately, that if it was agreeable to Mr. Turell, he might keep the mony and continue the Mortgage, how to reconcile this is beyond me. I make no doubt your diserning Eye discovered the emotion of my Mind, which I am sure was legible in my Countinance, and I venture to say, if that friendship which you always professed towards me, had been in exercise, you must have pitied me: ask yourself, dear Sir, whether any other Construction Can be put on it, than a design of affronting me. If you had thot you was unsafe in letting me have the mony, there was not the least need of saying what you did: from a person of less understanding than Mr. Cooper, I should have placed it to a hurry of Spirit or a want of thought.

"It was equally unkind to send privately for Mr. Turell, and complain to him that you thought it hard that you could not receive your whole Debt from me as well as Mr. Erving or Mr. Bowdoin: your design in sending for him was doubtless to know whether the Account I had given you of our bargain was true.---Here I leave you to make your own reflections, only just observing that even heathen judge no affronts so pointed, as a distrust of a man's Integrity.----this Sir, is the Reason of my Uneasiness: if I have judgd wrong, I am Sorry.----I heartily agree with you of the propriety that all misunderstandings between old friends, should come to an early and soft Explanation. I am thankful my Temper is not implacable: the reverse too oft has been my Error, but yet I have so much Sensibility left as to feel an Injury, and think it my duty at certain times sutibly to resent it: I could have born the same treatment from almost any other man, but it coming from One whom thro life I have been ambitious of serving, and whose Interest in all respects I have ever viewd as a brothers, nay more, my own, wounded me to the very soul, and created a doubt, just or unjust I know not, that all your high pretentions of Friendship for me, from time to time have arisen from no higher a Cause than Interest at the time I was with you.

"I was in Affliction, and you knew it, I told you my heart, I secreted nothing from you, and I then hopd that in Mr. Cooper I had a Friend that was born for Adversity. I hope I am not mistaken.

"I am conscious to myself, in many things, I fall short of my duty to my Friends: I am far from Perfection,- but if ever celestial Spark warmed a human breast for another, it did mine toward you. I was fond of your Friendship and following the advice of a wise man in shewing myself friendly.

"I finish with wishing you many Friends as friendly to you as I have been. You may have thousands that may be of more Advantage but not one that ever lovd you better or wishd you more happiness than your poor, tho honest Freind

(s) S. Ph. Savage

"I would have wrote on better paper if I had had it.----"

NOTE: To the best of our ability and ingenuity we are reprinting these letters verbatim, expressed and spelled exactly as he wrote. Members are invited to make their own conjectures and to draw their own conclusions.

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS PROMPTLY FOR CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

The May 16th Charter Anniversary Dinner described on Page 1 of this issue will truly be a great affair. The Committee in charge of arrangements needs and asks your cooperation in one important respect: *mail your reservations right away!* The deadline has been set for the preceding Saturday, May 12th. Here is a great opportunity to invite friends. Prospective members are doubly welcome. A self-addressed envelope is enclosed in this issue to expedite prompt mailing.

This same envelope, moreover, can be utilized for other good purposes at the same time. For example, your check may include additional amounts as voluntary contributions, your own dues or new memberships (single-family-life per schedule at the bottom of this page), and Memorial, Special Purpose, or other gifts to the Endowment Fund.

We especially call attention to the opportunity you also have to swell the Endowment Fund by buying for yourself and friends, the following popular books. Thanks to their generous authors and publishers, *all* proceeds come to the Society.

1963 ONCE UPON A PUNG: Paperback only - $3.95
1976 ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON, MASSACHUSETTS — Hard cover $10.00 - Paperback, $5.50
1978 RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS: Paperback only - $3.95

NOTE: If the above are to be mailed, add 75¢ for postage and handling.

Finally, don't overlook the easy-to-mail HISTORIC MAP OF WESTON we published in the mid 1960's, and WINDOWS ON WESTON, the attractive tour guidebook which was printed in time for the nation's Bicentennial Commemoration. The price of each is one dollar.

Just enclose a note with your check and proper action will be taken promptly.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
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SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family, including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
Gift Memberships are suggested
Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment Fund are welcomed

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1 each by phoning Mrs. Paynter at 899-3533 or Harold G. Travis, Editor, 899-4515.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

October 1979 Vol. XVI, No. 1

222 YEARS OLD AND STILL SERVING THE COMMUNITY ACTIVELY AND WELL

This picture of the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern was taken last April during the dramatically successful annual spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. After a most impressive quilt show in the Tavern Barn (see Pages 4 and 5) our guests from all over the state were given a final send-off reception in the second floor's spacious ballroom which extends from one end to the other of the view pictured above. Succeeding stories will tell more about the parents, William and Mary, and of Josiah, his 3 brothers and 3 sisters. For example, eleven direct descendants of Josiah Smith's younger brother, James, still live in Weston within a stone's throw of each other on Sudbury Road, the ninth of successive generations so to do.

ANNA HALL'S BEQUEST IS OF REAL SIGNIFICANCE

Miss Anna Hall, who died in her second century last November 10th, aged 101 years, 110 days, left to the Weston Historical Society an old oil painting, signed "Ennerkin '84", which is of unusual interest and value to us of both the "now" and the "henceforth". She was our oldest charter member, and during her lifetime was a constant source of accurate and colorful information.

The painting, beautifully and sturdily framed, shows a nostalgic rural scene from the front yard of what has long been the large estate at 190 North Avenue, built in 1880 by Francis Hastings, husband of her aunt Anna Coburn Hastings. It was here that their niece, Anna Hall, lived from 1917 until her demise. In that long span of three score years and one, Anna Hall contributed much with grace and graciousness to this community and to a great tradition.

Continued on page 2

Looking across old North County Road, by then North Avenue as now, the famous artist showed first what was once called "the stable", western wing of the old barn that now bears a neat sign: "Old Homestead Farm", at No. 191. In the foreground, to the left, a farmer is shown putting up the bars while across the road, his horse still hitched to the plow, patiently waits for him in front of the grain drill that plainly shows inside the open door of the ell that abuts the barn. Leftwards toward Lincoln on the same opposite side of the road, No. 199 built about 1830, and a couple of auxiliary buildings that also still stand today in good condition, can be seen with a low (now missing) white picket fence in front. Oldtimers will recognize at the extreme left on the knoll facing Viles Street, old No. 4 School, more familiarly known as the "Northeast Schoolhouse."

Anna Hall left many relics and records which we hope to hear about, see, and share with you after they have been most carefully sorted and classified. We feel optimistic that much additional Weston lore will be brought to light.

THE LAW OFFICE GARDEN

A Most Grateful "THANK-YOU!"

For several years in a row, we've had the growing problem of finding enough people to take their turns at keeping those avaricious weeds from "taking over" (particularly in summer when so many of us are away) and literally smothering in that fertile soil, the shrubs, plants, and plantings back of the 1805 Isaac Fiske Law Office, our Society's historic headquarters at 626 Boston Post Road ("The Great Country Road" as it was known in the days of its beginning).

Volume VI, No. 2 of our January 1970 BULLETIN showed on its front page the design which had just won a handsome award the previous year in the Bay State Civic Beautification Contest. All of Page 2 in the same issue described how the garden had been planted in an article entitled "A LIVING MEMORIAL TO WESTON'S CIVIC SPIRIT". After paying tribute to the three cooperating garden clubs of Weston, the writer concluded: "This quaint and simple garden will, with faithful care, always remind us that Weston cherishes its past and the natural charm of its countryside."

During this past summer, a group of neighbors under the inspiring leadership and example of Mrs. William McElwain, aided and abetted especially by ever-faithful charter members, Mr. and Mrs. Leander F. Rafuse and their daughter Martha who live too far away to be considered immediate "neighbors", had literally, not "from the ground up" but rather, "up from under the ground", performed an herculean task in successfully clearing out the rest of the stubborn and persistent poison ivy roots, the heavy clumps of grasses and weeds, etc., and thus restoring the little gem to all its tasteful and dainty charm and glory.

With tremendous appreciation to Mrs. McElwain and her group, we are delighted to relay her assurance that volunteers who share their pride in Weston and are able to give some time and effort, will be welcome at any time to join them and supply the stint that makes the difference! Why don't you consider calling her at 893-5775? The faithful few oldsters who did their best to "keep up with it" for so many years and are now unable because of unwelcome arthritic and other reasons of age, to continue, will silently bless you too.

IN MEMORIAM

With the greatest sadness we record the tremendous loss we have sustained in the recent deaths of three of our most loyal members who steadily through all the years actively supported not only this Society but also everything that was good in and for the great little town in which we so happily live. We haven't space to eulogize them properly or especially to enumerate all they did, but suffice it to say that Dr. Theodore B. Bayles, Mrs. Russell ("Allie") Dorrance, and Mrs. Albert B. ("Peg") Hunt were each "at the top of the list" in the hearts of countless neighbors, fellow members, and not only fellow citizens of Weston but of vast areas beyond. The memory of their spirit and of all they did will keep on inspiring us in our own support of the causes they served so capably, effectively, and with such charm.

"WESTON AS IT USED TO BE"

By Brenton H. Dickson 3rd

Continued from our last issue

"For many years the Great Country Road held an important position as a thoroughfare to the west. The first Boston-New York postrider chose this as his route. He made his initial round trip in 1673. It took him a month to do it. At that time, much of his journey was on old Indian trails, going from one isolated community to another. He was a well-informed individual, for he read and digested the mail he carried, and no doubt had pretty good audiences at the taverns he visited along the way.

"As the needs for agricultural products increased in Boston with its growing population, the roads were widened to accommodate teams for transporting these supplies, and during the daylight hours there was a constant procession of them along important thoroughfares. Taverns sprung up in many towns to accommodate the teamsters. It is said that sometimes as many as a hundred teams would stop at a single tavern for the night.

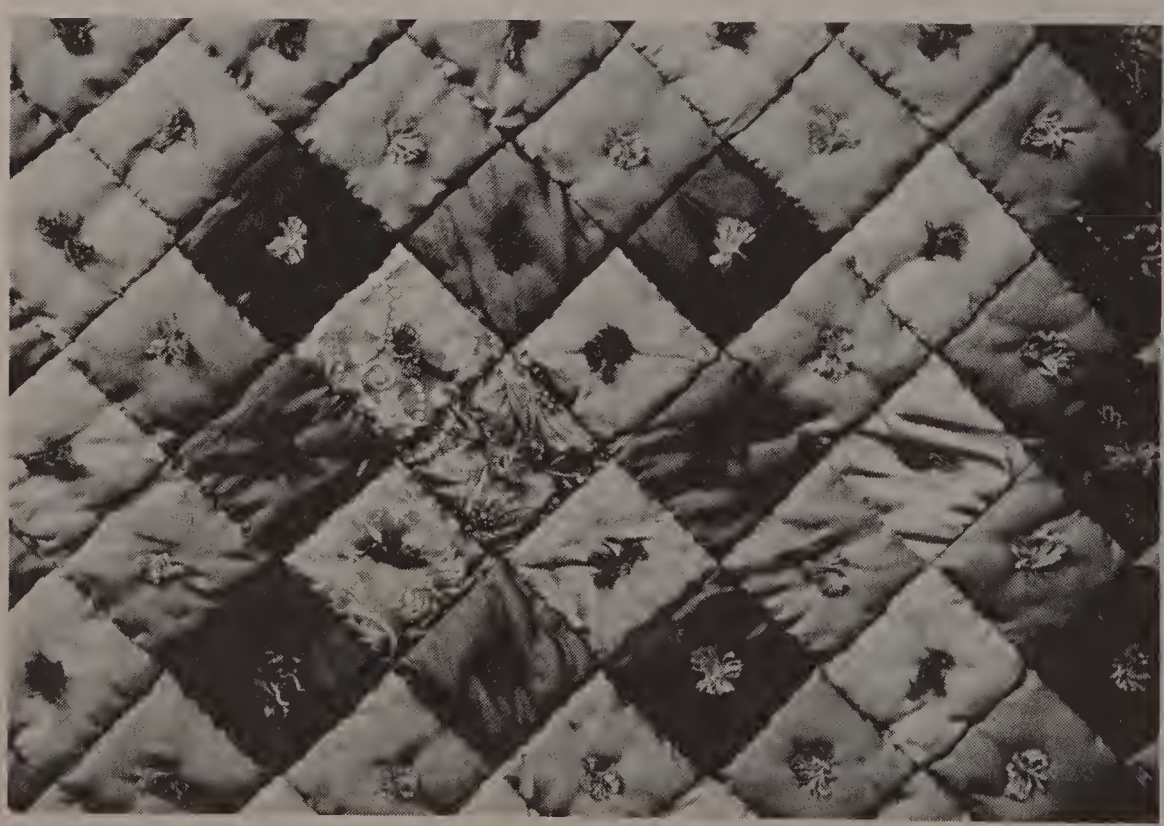
"Finally after the Revolution, the stagecoach era began. In 1785 Levi Pease of Shrewsbury, often called the father of stagecoaching, inaugurated service along the Great Country Road through Weston. For the first year he only went as far as Hartford. After that, he extended his service to New York.

"This was the most uncomfortable form of transportation imaginable. Then there were those miserable nights at taverns. An account of a trip from Boston to New York attributed to Josiah Quincy, tells about going on one of Levi Pease's coaches. 'The carriages were old and shackling,' he wrote, 'and much of the harness was made of ropes. One pair of horses carried the stage eighteen miles. We generally reached our resting place for the night, if no accident intervened, at ten o'clock, and after a frugal supper went to bed with a notice that we should be called at three the next morning which generally proved to be half past two. Then, whether it snowed or rained, the traveler must rise and make ready by the help of a horn and a farthing candle, and proceed on his way over bad roads, sometimes with a driver showing no doubtful signs of drunkenness, which good hearted passengers never failed to improve at every stopping place by urging upon him another glass of toddy. thus we traveled eighteen miles a stage, sometimes obliged to get out and help the coachman lift the coach out of a quagmire or rut, and arrived at New York after a week's hard traveling, wondering at the ease as well as the expedition of our journey.'

"We have no specific record of any stagecoaches changing horses in Weston, but just over the Wayland line there is supposed to have been one. We know little about what important people stopped at Weston taverns. We do have a record of George Washington spending a night at Flagg Tavern on the Post Road, and of John Adams having a meal there. Paul Revere had breakfast at the Golden Ball Tavern. General Glover and his prisoner, Burgoyne, undoubtedly spent a night either at the Golden Ball or at Baldwin's, close by. We have records of Samuel Phillips Savage, president of the Board of War, stopping at Baldwin's, and also Reverend Samuel Cooper who went around the countryside preaching revolution and who, according to Peter Oliver, 'was one of Sam Adams' psalmsinging myrmidons who made the New England clergy everlasting monuments of disgrace and who turned the House of God into a Den of Thieves.'

"Samuel Phillips Savage moved to Weston ten years before the American Revolution, and bought a farm on North Avenue. (North County Road). In Revolutionary days he was the most prominent citizen in town. In 1773 he moderated the meeting at the Old South Meeting House in Boston that led up to the Boston Tea Party; he became President of the Board of War in 1776 and continued as such until the Board was dissolved in 1781. The Board of War was organized to keep the army supplied with food, weapons and ammunition and to build storehouses at strategic locations. Great quantities of these supplies were carted through Weston and many local people were hired to transport them to their respective destinations. There was a large storehouse in Sudbury, now marked with an historical plaque. Many references are made to magazines in Weston but there is no plaque to pinpoint them. They were probably on Savage's place or adjoining property.

Continued on page 6



The Society's Quilt Show in the barn of the Josiah Smith Tavern was one of the features of the Annual Spring Meeting of the Bay State Historical League, held in Weston on April 21, 1979.

Shown above is the 1976 Bicentennial Quilt made by ladies of Weston. Facing it on the preceding page are three of the more than eighty quilts, "old and new", which were displayed by our talented committee. The Society is grateful for the contributions of so many to the success of this event, and would welcome additional photographs for its archives.

"Weston was incorporated in 1713. Up to then it had been a part of Watertown, often called Watertown Farms, and was first inhabited as an agricultural community about 1640, give or take a few years. But antedating this early settlement are the mysterious evidences of civilization known as *Norumbega*. Professor Horseford attempted to prove that this was the lost city of the Norsemen and dated back to the tenth century; Justin Winsor, the historian, felt it is more likely a stockade -- possibly the first attempt at starting the city of Boston, well inland from attack by battleships. The diggings are definitely man-made and some day an archeologist may come up with an answer and then we will have a better idea of when Weston had its true beginnings."

MERCY SCOLLAY WROTE A LETTER TO SAMUEL PHILLIPS SAVAGE

THE BRITISH HAD JUST LEFT BOSTON: SHE WANTED TO COME HOME

In 1774 Miss Mercy Scollay visited Dr., later General, Joseph Warren as a patient in his Boston office. His first wife, Elizabeth Hooten, had died, leaving him with 2 sons and 2 daughters. Mercy Scollay and Joseph Warren fell in love. He persuaded her to make use of her lively intelligence in writing for the Revolutionary cause. She wrote a satire on the female love of dress, and had fate decreed that Warren not fall at the Battle of Bunker Hill and that instead she had become his bride, Mercy Scollay might well have joined the circle of Abigail Adams and Mercy Warren as one of the leading ladies of her day. Shortly before his death, however, Warren asked her, in the event of his death, to care for his children. Such was his confidence in his fiancee, and Mary did conscientiously take care of the four little children. At one period during this time, she was offered the assistance of Benedict Arnold.

She came of great stock. Her father, John Scollay, (ca 1711-1790), was a firm supporter always of civil and religious rights. Selected as a fire-ward in 1747, he continued in that office for most of his life. Chosen a Selectman of Boston in 1764 and again in 1773, he served as chairman from 1774 to 1790 inclusive. His son, Colonel William Scollay, (1756-1809), was Mercy's brother, and himself most prominent as Clerk of Market in 1788, Selectman 1792-95, and Fire-ward from 1792 to 1806 inclusive. Incidentally, one of his daughters married Colonel Thomas Melville who was known as "the last of the cocked hats". He took part in the Boston Tea Party. We are indebted to Mr. Riley for the above information which makes excellent background for the letter which speaks for itself that Mercy Scollay wrote to Samuel Phillips Savage in Weston just as it appears below.

Worcester March 22nd 1776

Dear Sr

I have only time to tell you that I sincerely rejoice with you and all my Dear relatives and friends, on the redem(p)tion of our Metropolis from the hands of our oppressors, and I exult in the thot that 'tis Heaven alone must have the Glory, for it is not our own bow or arm that has done it, but Deliverance has been sent us at a time when we expected the greatest carnage and wrought out in ***such a way****, that Proud man has nothing to boast — and I can think of no paralell except the flight of the Assyrians which I think a similar case — for they heard a rumour* ***and fled****. Pray God we may not, like that favoured people again rebel against our* ***great deliverer*** *— I never thot that Boston would be destroyed and "only inhabited by fishermen;" my faith had been as strong in that as it* ***still is*** *in another instance and as our blessed Lord said to Nathanael "believest thou this Thou shalt see greater things than these", so I believe (and I have a sure word of promise to ground my faith upon) that New England has not seen half the wonders that are* ***yet to be reveald****; if we receive this mercy aright so we may expect further blessings — I suppose my brothers and sisters are all gone from Weston and I yearn to fly with them to the arms of my Parents, but my friends hold me fast, and will not let me go — the Dr. says if he sends me down (for he*

cant come with me himself on Mrs. Dix's account) it will look as if he wanted to get rid of me, and he fears Boston is not yet safe enough to venture my residence there — My amiable Mrs. Dix is expecting every day to be confind and while she rejoice(s) with me in my happy prospect, the tear trembles in her eye least I should leave her till her difficulties are over — thus I am divided between filial attachments and tender friendship — should be glad to hear from some of my friends, and if they insist on my coming down ***immediately****, they must contrive to get me conveyd as the Doctor cannot leave home and I dont love to travel with a stranger — I wrote some days ago to Mr. Melvill and sent a packet with it to Baldwin's hope he has got it safe — should be glad of a line from you by the first opportunity — I have begd the lad that brings this to stop at Baldwin's on his return, to see if there is any letters for me — If you see my Dear papa and mama before me tell them I long to be with them, but I fear to leave my friends yet least I should appear ungrateful to such* ***uncommon*** *benefactors — I would wish papa to write a line to the Doctor if he does not to me accept my Dear Sr of my best wishes for yours and familys happiness and believe me ever with great respect your affectionate and unalterable Friend*

(s) M Scollay

the Doctor and Lady joines me in congratulations and regard to you and all friends.

Editor's Note: Miss Mercy Scollay never married. Born in Boston on September 11, 1741, she died in Medfield at the age of 84 on Sunday, January 8, 1826, true all her long life to the man who undoubtedly was the most famous hero of Bunker Hill.

H.G.T.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON SAMUEL SAVAGE BECOMES AVAILABLE

While browsing through recently acquired additions to the Samuel Phillips Savage Collection at the Massachusetts Historical Society under the aegis of our president and its retired director, we examined a scrapbook put together by Savage's great granddaughter, Sarah Jane (Bancroft) Lawrence (1808-1884). She attributed its beginning to one Lawrence Park in 1762 when he was in his mid-fifties. It came to the Massachusetts Historical Society from Mrs. George T. Skinner of Groton, who as Mrs. Lawrence's granddaughter, is the great great great granddaughter of "Weston's Greatest Patriot". With each issue, we'll try to run extracts from that fascinating scrapbook as part of our on-going series on the SAVAGE STORY. Many of them will entail some additional research for identification and the fullest significance. Two examples are given below.

On April 11, 1765, Nathaniel Carter, a friend in Newburyport, succinctly averred in a terse note: "I can't look upon my children but with a damp on my spirits, viewing them as born for slavery,- and futurity as a time when blessed will be the womb that never bore and the paps that never gave suck." We suspect this unhappy and disillusioned father was the merchant by that name who was asked in a letter dated August 1, 1776 if he'd be willing to ship, for the service of his country, some of the furs he had on hand.

The other letter we have selected for this issue is one dated almost a month later. Writing to Mr. Savage on May 10, 1765 from Portsmouth, Sarah Barrell wrote: "I assure you I have often thought if our [women] were more generally employed they would not find leisure to think of a thousand superfluities that now appear to them of consequence. I think a thimble and needle as great ornaments to a lady's fingers as a diamond ring, and am sure I must long be deprived the use of the one before I should pine after the other."

At the time, Mr. Savage had been a widower for about a year, his first wife Sarah Tyler Savage having died at 46 the previous year. He moved to Weston in 1765 and did not marry Bathsheba Thwing Johnson of Boston until Dec. 21, 1767. It is quite

Continued on page 8

plausible that in expressing herself as above, Sarah Barrell knew what a "catch" this prominent ex-Bostonian might be. The fact that Savage kept her letter always may indicate that she was perhaps high on his list. Altogether he had 3 wives. The third was not acquired until June 21, 1794 when, at the age of 75, he married his housekeeper, Miss Mary Misserve of Weston.

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last issue we have been delighted to add to our membership: Mrs. Arthur E. Bent, Mr. and Mrs. Abram T. Collier, Mr. and Mrs. John P. Larkin, and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd A. Yearout. Even though we are one of the largest and most active historical societies in the Commonwealth, no waiting list will ever be established inasmuch as we would like to have the support of every resident of our most exceptional New England town. When conversing with your neighbors, old or new, don't hesitate to spread this message to them. No application blank is absolutely or technically necessary. Simply send checks with their full names and addresses as described at the bottom of the last page of this BULLETIN.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOOKS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Contact Mrs. David M. Kellogg, Jr. at 893-0824 right away if you want some of those publications listed on the back page of our last issue: Vol. XV, No. 4, May 1979. All proceeds come to the Society's Endowment Fund, and everyone of them is a "must" in your own library or bedside table. The story of Weston and the people who made it what it is today, is told authoritatively and entertainingly. Any one or all of them will let your friends know why *you* live in and love Weston!

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

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Brenton H. Dickson III '81; Roy L. Dickson '81; Mrs. Reginald W. Elwell '80; Mrs. Dudley B. Dumaine '81; Homer C. Lucas '80; Edward W. Marshall '79; Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. '79; Mrs. M. Kirkbridge Patterson '79; Stephen T. Riley '80; and Harold G. Travis '81.

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family, including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
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(Currently our youngest life member is 3 - our oldest in his 80's)
Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed

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THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

January 1980 Vol. XVI, No. 2

Photographs by Joan Warren

WESTON CENTER'S OLDEST BUILDING
THE 1757 JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

Shown above, left, are its barn and shed which for over two centuries have been attached to the Tavern, right. See story on page 6.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our most ambitious undertaking of this past year was hosting the spring meeting of the Bay State Historical League. About 200 members of various historical societies in Massachusetts gathered at Regis College on April 21 to hear papers on the collecting and preserving of American paintings and prints given by Charles D. Childs, Georgia B. Bumgardner, and David and Faith Regamey. After hearing the papers and enjoying an excellent lunch, our visitors were guided to such places of local historic importance as the Fiske Law Office, the Golden Ball Tavern, the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum, and the Weston Observatory. Perhaps the greatest attraction of the day was the exhibition of antique and modern quilts in the barn of the Josiah Smith Tavern. The day ended with the serving of refreshments in the ballroom of this tavern. It was a memorable occasion, and we are most grateful to all our members and friends who helped make it such an outstanding success.

The annual meeting of the Weston Historical Society on November 15, 1979, marked the end of a very busy year. The reports of the officers indicated that we are a lively, prosperous organization ready to embark on what we hope will be another successful season. Aware of the drawing power of Brenton H. Dickson, our speaker, we expected a good attendance at the meeting but hardly the overflow audience which came to hear him tell us about "Weston's Three Railroads." His witty, delightful talk captivated his listeners. Our Editor, Harold G. Travis, plans to perpetuate his remarks in THE BULLETIN, beginning on Page 3 of this issue.

Continued on page 2

At the previous annual meeting we had a rewarding evening with Richard C. Kugler, Director of the New Bedford Whaling Museum, who talked about his Society's activities and showed us a rollicking film on whaling, complete with music. In February Kathryn C. Buhler, an expert on American silver, gave us an illustrated lecture on her subject which was enthusiastically received. Maintaining our high standards, we persuaded Andrew Oliver, President of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, to be our annual Charter Anniversary dinner speaker on May 16. His brilliant paper on Samuel Curwen, the Salem Loyalist, entitled "The Travels and Travails of a Refugee Loyalist" fascinated his audience, especially Dr. Vera Laska who wrote a glowing report of his talk for the *Wayland-Weston Town Crier* of July 12, 1979. In her article Dr. Laska chided those who had not attended: "Yet I missed dozens of people who would have enjoyed the evening. Where were all [of] you professionals and trueblood and pseudo intellectuals of our fair towns? . . . and where were you young folk, why are you cheating yourselves of these pleasures of the soul? Look for next year's annual dinner of the Weston Historical Society." I might reinforce Dr. Laska's remarks by adding that it is very much our job to persuade our neighbours of all ages to become members of the Society. Many of them are waiting to be asked. Do give us the names of prospective members. In fact it would be a friendly gesture on your part to offer to send in their membership check and bring them with you to our next meeting.

We are now planning this year's program. On Thursday evening, February 28th we shall visit the Cardinal Spellman Philatelic Museum at 235 Wellesley Street. There we shall hear a paper on Weston's postal history by Dr. Guy R. Dillaway. We hope that a group of Weston High School history students will present a program before the Weston Historical Society in March or April. Details and dates of these meetings will be announced later. Please make every effort to attend all of these worthwhile meetings.

S. T. R.

IN MEMORIAM

With real sadness we note the passing of four loyal members: Mr. John W. Boyd, Mrs. Francis G. Goodale, Mrs. David I. Hudnut, all charter members, and Mr. Albert B. Joy. The latter, who lived altogether in Weston for 38 years, returned with Mrs. Joy in 1974 and immediately joined our Society. We are told that at one time an ancestor owned a large part of Beacon Hill, Boston, and that Joy Street derived its name from his family.

In the Society's earliest days, it was Mrs. Hudnut who donated to us two hand-carved cathedral chairs (ca 1850) which had been a wedding present to Sir Arthur and Lady Conan Doyle in 1907 and after flanking their fireplace for 20 years, were their silver wedding anniversary present to Mrs. Hudnut's sister and husband. (Weston Historical Society BULLETIN October 1966, Vol. III, No. 1).

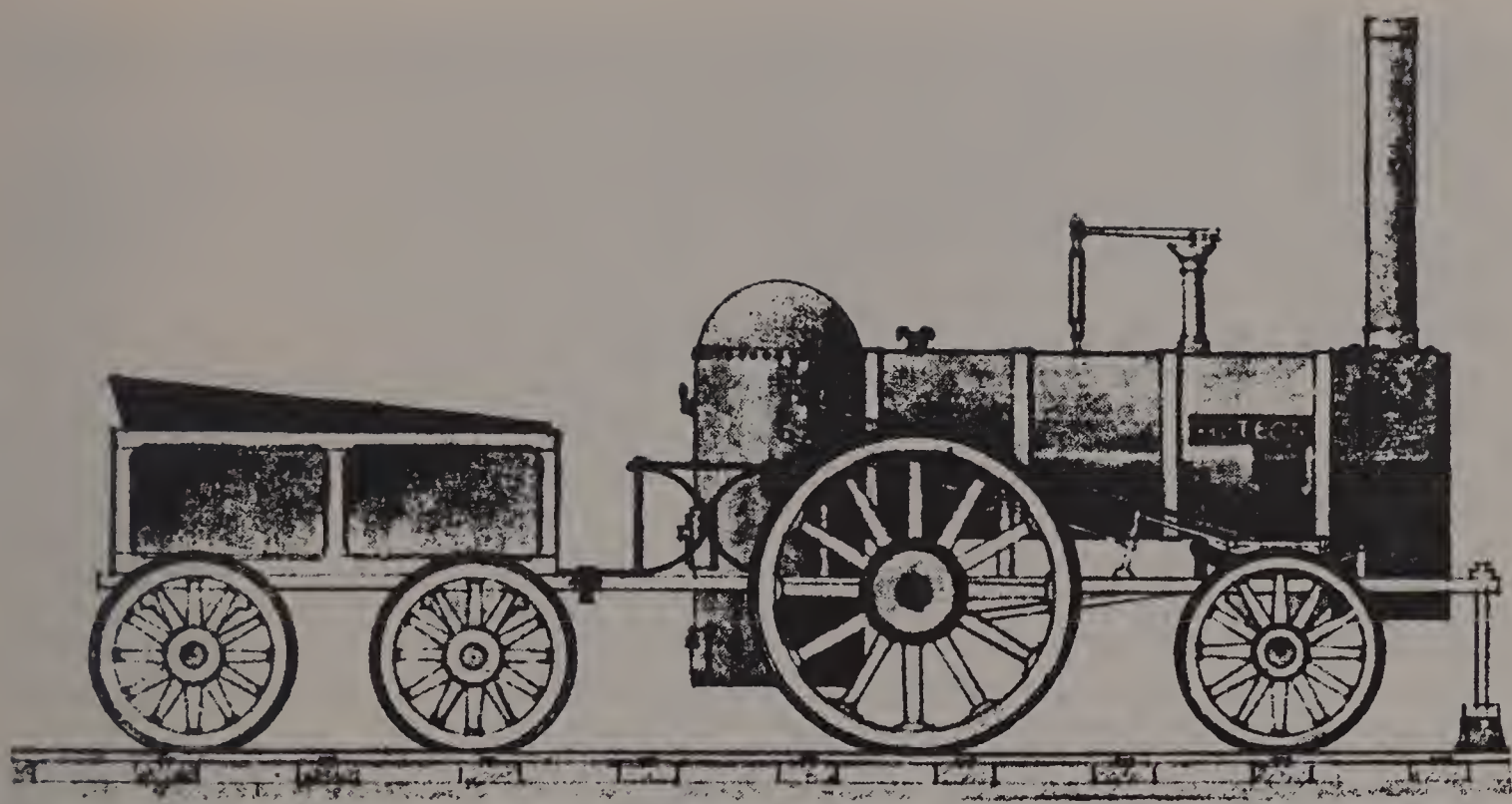
Margaret Goodale, widow of the late Francis G. Goodale, and mother of Carol G. Hayes, — all charter members too — belied her age of 93, for her warm and youthful spirit constantly endeared her to all who knew her.

Mr. Boyd, intimately known to all of us as "Jack", died in his sleep Monday morning, December 10th, after an active and unusually happy Sunday with family, business associates, and other friends. For the past half century, he was one of Weston's most prominent citizens both in business and countless civic organizations where his dedication and loyalty were outstanding.

To the families of all these good citizens and real friends of Weston, we extend not only our sympathy but also, our appreciation for all each of them did to preserve our heritage, so rare and so rich to so many of us.

AROUND THE TOWN GREEN

The recent renovation of Weston's Town Hall, including outside pruning and painting, further enhances the setting surrounding our Town Green. Whether from Town House Road, Church Street, or The Great Country Road (Boston Post Road to us now), we catch unmatched vistas of historic buildings and fields, and of natural charm, cherished by citizens and visitors alike.



"METEOR"
One of the first Boston and Worcester engines

Below we are printing "Part I" of our Society Historian's informal talk at our "Standing Room Only" annual meeting on November 15th in the Josiah Smith Tavern ballroom. Most of our large membership missed this interesting talk which was a real treat, so we have decided to print it in its entirety. This installment deals only with the first of the 3 railroads he described. Subsequent issues will carry the other two. — Editor

WESTON'S THREE RAILROADS

Brenton H. Dickson III

PART 1: — BOSTON AND WORCESTER

The first railroad service in New England was on a 9 mile stretch of the Boston and Worcester between Boston and Newton. This began in the spring of 1834. Two months later, service had been extended to Wellesley (Needham in those days) and this section passed through Weston for about a mile. There were never any stations in Weston on this line. About the only thing that happened regularly was when the engineer on the morning train threw the daily paper out the cab window for Mr. Blake when passing his estate.

I am going to dwell on the Boston and Worcester for a while because its growing pains were typical of other New England railroads. Trial and error were the order of the day. The first locomotives were imported from England, as well as some of the engineers to drive them:— stuffy individuals who wore top hats and kid gloves and constantly made unnecessary mechanical adjustments to impress any onlookers.

The original rails were much lighter than they should have been and had the inconvenient habit of curling if trains went over them too rapidly, thereby forming "snake heads" which could come up through the floor and injure passengers. When the tracks were first laid there was a question of grading between them so that horses could haul the train with greater ease. In fact, one of the officers felt that haulage by steam would prove impractical and horses would have to be used anyway!

"The vicissitudes of early railroading," — quoting from A. F. Harlow's *'Steelways of New England'*, can be only faintly appreciated by a study of the record book of the Boston & Worcester's engine performances during the first three years history of the road . . . *"In winter the commonest trouble was the freezing of the hose by which water passed from tank to boiler;... Derailings were common. There was a stiff broom fastened to the pilot over each rail to sweep the snow off, but it was of no avail when the snow was deep, and sometimes when it wasn't deep."* A February 7 [ca] 1836 note says *Snow on rails, wheels revolve, but do not go ahead. When an axle or journal broke on a car, they just derailed that car and went on,*

picking it up later. Once when a wheel under the tender broke, they took a pair of wheels from under a passenger car — perhaps jamming that car's passengers into other cars — and went ahead.

"The poor devils who traveled then suffered untold harassments. (Hose froze, and passengers went on by horses. . . Crank shaft broke, passengers brought in by horses . . . Even crippled locomotives were ignominiously brought in by horses.)

"Night running was avoided whenever possible, but trains were frequently stalled overnight by accident or snowstorm. Once in 1836 a belated train ran into some cattle at 9:00 p.m. and killed two of them. It was so dark, could not see, and of course there was no headlight. Neither were there any bumpers at the ends of the tracks in the Boston station, and trains coming in too rapidly and badly braked sometimes just went right on, perhaps through the wall of the depot." [Other] characteristic bits from this book are: *"Engine would not steam . . . Opposite the poor house at Newton, derailed by ice on track. . . . Ashpan came off at Hopkinton. . . . Found bridge burned down over Charles River, and took the passenger train back to Worcester. . . .*

"Febr. 17. (Meteor.) On eastward trip, about 300 yards from Westborough, broom scraper standard caught on rail, broke standard and derailed engine and tender down a 6-foot embankment and bent forward shaft of engine. Five pairs of oxen got the engine on the rails again, and the down trip was made the day following.

"Same day. (Comet.) Snowing, could not go fast for wheels sliding on the snow. At Natick, ran out of wood; went to Needham and took wood; backed to the ledge and took water. Passengers sent on by horses. About 2½ miles from Framingham, hose froze, and at Framingham the hose and pipes were thawed out. About ¼ mile beyond Framingham, tubes burst in the boiler, and engine was hauled back to Framingham by horses."

But the most astounding performance, as the book records it, was this: *"April 17. (Meteor.) On return trip to Boston, about ½ mile below Westborough, the engine and tender were derailed. One of the Air spring drawbars on the Whitmore Car was broken, and engineman went one mile before he found that he had left his cars. [Query: Had the engine and tender been put back on the track before they lost their train, or were they just cutting across country?] . . .*

"The public accepting the inescapable, and optimistic as to the future, continued to patronize the roads and to build up their business beyond expectations. It is true that the Worcester freight business for some time was nothing to boast of; that town, somewhat alienated commercially from Boston, still clung to its Blackstone Canal and New York connections [until] after a few incidents like that of the Worcester manufacturer who ordered from Philadelphia in late summer a cargo of coal which was to be shipped by Blackstone Canal, but which, upon reaching Providence, found the canal too nearly dry to carry it there. . . . He then ordered another cargo of coal to be shipped via Boston and the railroad, and it was delivered at his door within 10 hours after reaching wharf at Boston."

The Boston and Worcester eventually became the Boston and Albany and in 1900 was leased to the New York Central. It was an important line with trains to New York as well as to Chicago and St. Louis, some of them entirely composed of Pullman cars, and everything — even the commuter trains, operated in a most formal manner.

It was a thrilling sight, watching one of those enormous locomotives laboring up the grade out of Newton and past Riverside Station, gaining speed all the while and spewing steam and billows of black smoke into the air, — a modern environmentalist's nightmare.

The Boston and Albany burnt the dirtiest coal imaginable, and the cinders that sifted through the windows of the commuter trains were so thick that you could write your name on the window sill after traveling a few miles. Many Weston commuters used Riverside Station which stood just across the town line in Newton just east of the Charles River. Service to Boston was excellent with trains running frequently, and during rush hours some of them made the trip non-stop.

Painting by J. J. Enneking 1884 of North Avenue, Weston showing the Hastings Homestead and the Northeast District Schoolhouse. Gift to the Weston Historical Society by Harrison B. Hall.

NINTH SUCCESSIVE GENERATION OF WILLIAM AND MARY SMITH'S FAMILY STILL LIVES IN WESTON

Under the photograph of Weston's oldest downtown building, the 1757 Josiah Smith Tavern, in our last issue, we announced that we are working on a series of articles telling what we can find out about William and Mary Smith and the descendants of their seven children, — Bradyl, 1715; Mary, 1717; William Jr., 1721; Josiah, 1722; James, 1724; Sarah, 1726; and Abigail, 1730. With great cooperation not only from the Smith family but especially from Dorothy Ellis and Homer Lucas, present and former chairmen of the Weston Historical Commission, we have developed information so vast that putting it into focus in proper relation to Town history, will involve further continuous study. Capable and dedicated volunteers can be put to work on some fascinating quests. In this issue we present the first of that series: a review of the nine successive generations that have lived in Weston.

It's a record hard to equal for continuous living in the same town by so many generations as represented today by the descendants of Josiah Smith's younger brother, James Smith, 5th child, 4th son of William and Mary. James was born December 21, 1724 and served the town as Surveyor and Collector of Highways in 1754, Preserver of Deer in 1756, Constable and Fence Viewer in 1767, Constable only from 1768 through 1771, and Field Driver in 1775.

He married Lucy Stearns of Lexington on February 28, 1748. Their youngest of 4 children was Samuel Smith, born April 18, 1764. His first wife, Patience Gregory, died soon after their marriage. In 1789 he married the widow, Olive Pepper, nee Marshal, a native of Canada. Samuel Smith, Jr. was born a year later. This 4th generation Smith married Martha Stratton on May 27, 1819, and their son Nahum Smith, was born about six years later in the original homestead, 111 Sudbury Road.

Nahum Smith grew up to become a diligent member of the School Committee and served in that capacity for many years. At age 22, he married Susan M. Daggett on February 11, 1845. His reports on each district school appeared regularly in our annual town reports. The one he wrote in 1882 on "Schoolhouse #3" whose overgrown, unmarked foundation can be found with difficulty on Concord Road about 1,000 yards beyond its junction with Merriam Street, still is a challenge to us, because of the following:

Referring to "North (west) District School, Miss Ida A. Gould, Teacher," he remarked, "In the coming years it may be that some of our ambitious boys may become men to whom the world will look up, and whom the world will delight to honor; what has been, may again be, — for out of the little North-West Schoolhouse, many years ago went a poor boy who, before life's close, had attained to some of the highest honors in the land."

On Page 4 of our January 1972, Vol. VIII, No. 2 issue, we appealed to the membership "Won't all of you readers and members share the challenge with us? — TO WHOM DID NAHUM SMITH REFER IN THIS 1882 REPORT? After eight years, mystery persists, for no one has correctly identified the man of whom he spoke so glowingly.

The son of Nahum and Susan Smith was Charles Edward Smith, born August 23, 1849 and married Anna Terry Harlow. It is their son, Lincoln Harlow Smith, born February 12, 1908 who still lives happily with his wife, the former Anne Lucille Sanders, at 101 Sudbury Road. His younger sister, Sylvia Harlow Smith and her husband, John Akers, live in Natick and their younger brother, Carl Daggett Smith and his wife, Florence Coburn Smith, live "just over the line" in Lincoln which, though part of Weston until 1754, disbars them from this article which confines itself to present-day residents of Weston only.

The Lincoln H. Smiths of today's 7th generation are the parents of Edwin Lincoln Smith who, like his forbear, James Smith, is a skilled surveyor by profession. Born, of course in Weston, August 22, 1935, he married Claire Foss on December 16, 1961, and lives "just down the road a piece" at No. 136, while his younger sister, Susan Ellen Smith Merrill lives almost across the road from their parents, at 128.

Edwin and Claire Smith have three 9th generation children, Ellen Diane Smith, born on March 9, 1963, Linda Jane Smith, January 16, 1966, and David Edwin Smith, October 8, 1967. Edwin's sister, Susan, married Herbert Wyers Merrill on October 20, 1962, and they have 4 sons of the 9th generation, — Herbert Lincoln Merrill, born July 15, 1964, Scott Alan Merrill, January 11, 1967, and twins Andrew Sanders Merrill and Gary Smith Merrill, born on September 13, 1976.

We suspect that a few, if not many, other residents can also trace their lineage back nine straight generations in Weston too, and if so, we'd welcome their documentary chart and family story. We have all the above Smith genealogy in charted form, but to us, there is more to genealogy than just names and dates. Each name has been, or is, a person. After all, it's *people* who count more to us than mere dates. We intend, nevertheless, to see how far, with help from members young and old, we can trace and record, step by step, the descendants of not only our more famous Bradyl and Josiah Smith of the second generation, but of their three sisters and other brother William Smith, Jr. also, of whom so little is relatively known.

It should be fun to see what more can be found by many of us lending a hand to the project. Moreover we know that the Weston Historical Commission, appointed from our membership by the Selectmen thus far, can use lots of help, as has been true up to now, in gathering information on old houses and families. Already a most helpful file has been accumulated through our joint efforts.

H. G. T.

Robin Hood Played Part in Naming KENDAL GREEN

It may be timely and of interest to Weston newcomers and even to some oldtimers who may have forgotten, to read the following extracts from our January 1966 BULLETIN, Vol. II, No. 2 — Editor

In 1885, a new Post Office was to be set up to serve the northern part of Weston . . . Miss Anna Hall, a member of our Society, has . . . a letter written by General James B. Marshall, grandson of Rev. Samuel Kendal, defending his . . . suggesting the name "Kendal Green".

The following is quoted verbatim: "Mr. Editor 'How couldst thou know these men in Kendal Green, when 'twas so dark thou couldst not see thy hands? (King Henry VI, Act II, Scene IV.)'

". . . the name of KENDAL GREEN was . . . commemorative of a good man, Rev. Samuel Kendal, D.D., or 'Good Parson Kendal' . . . last of the colonial pastors . . . identified with the early history of the town . . . Kendal Green, immortalized by Shakespeare, of pleasant sound and significance, was finally fixed upon. There is no post office of the name in the U.S.

"The family name from which Parson Kendal was descended . . . originated with a forester of Queen Elizabeth whose name was John . . . lived in the valley of the river Ken (now called Kent) and who was called . . . John of Ken Dale, which by easy transition became John Kendal.

"The town of Kendal in the same valley of Westmoreland County is noted for the ruins of the castle of Catharine Parr, one of the wives of Henry VIII, and for its manufacture of green cloth called *Kendal Green* . . . adopted by Robert, Earl of Huntington, when he was outlawed and took the name of Robin Hood, as uniform for himself and followers. The Kendal factory is still in operation and the green cloth formerly worn by Robin Hood and his merrie men is now put to more peaceful use as the uniform of the Kendal Fire Department.

"The Shakespearean quotation . . . was Prince Hal's reply to Falstaff when that doughty warrior boasted of having slain seven of the eleven misbegotten knaves in Kendal Green. We trust we have no knaves in our Kendal Green though it must be confessed that not long ago we had one who got away for the same reason given by Falstaff for allowing his other four assistants to escape. He was the hen thief, one of those vagrant men whom the valiant and vigilant Dogberry advised that we let steal out of our company and thank God we are rid of the knave - - we let him steal . . ."

The above letter was dated — Weston, Dec. 14, 1885, and was signed "J. F. B. Marshall". For approximately the next half century the Kendal Green Post Office was part of Broderick's Store, which about the time of World War II was converted into a residence, now No. 109 North Avenue, a little west of the picturesque and historic junction of Church Street and North Avenue on Route 117.

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome is extended to Miss Lucy J. Boyd and to the following family members who are joining in our fellowship of working to preserve the heritage of Weston: Mr. and Mrs. William H. Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis W. Mustard 3rd, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell E. Ryerson, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Wheeler.

ELMER CAPPERS ELECTED TO THE BOARD

At our annual meeting, the Nominating Committee, chaired by John G. Brooks, proposed the name of Elmer O. Cappers for a 3-year term to succeed Mrs. M. Kirkbride Patterson, who to everyone's regret asked not to be re-nominated. Mr. Cappers was unanimously elected. With his wife, he moved here from Brookline on his retirement from business a few years ago. As a seasoned writer on historical subjects - largely researched by himself - the retired president of a large suburban bank, and perennially noted for his active loyalty to Harvard's Class of 1923, he brings experience, strength, and talent to the board. Re-elected with him for 3-year terms were former president Edward W. Marshall and Mrs. John A. Paine, Jr. A list of our full board of directors, and of the officers who were re-elected, is to be found on the last page of this issue. Give them your support.

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Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
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Board of Directors

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Life: $250 per person
Gift memberships are suggested
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Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1.00 each by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter at 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, at 899-4515. If you have any old copies of the 1960's, and are not saving them, please be sure to give them to our Curator, Mrs. J. E. Fraser, 894-2872.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

March 1980 Vol. XVI, No. 3

"WESTON BRIDGE"

Reproduced above is a line drawing of the old bridge that spanned the Charles River at the Newton line of what we know most familiarly as *South Avenue* but which, in earlier days was called The South County Road. Full information is available in the Society's *"ONE TOWN IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WESTON MASSACHUSETTS"* by Dickson-Lucas not only on Page 10 but also, through its "NOTES" section on Page 180 an abundance of additional detail is to be found in *Massachusetts Archives*, in the *Journal* of the *House of Representatives,* and in *Province Laws 1743-44.*

This drawing by one H. O. Rider appeared in a booklet entitled "EARLY DAYS IN AUBURNDALE" presented to us by our fellow townsman, A. Bruce Downes. It describes itself as "A Village Chronicle of Two Centuries: 1665-1870", and was published under the auspices of the Auburndale Woman's Club in the early part of the current century.

Attention is called to the fact that Newton's portion of the structure was of stone while Weston's was of wood. The landing at the bottom of the steps on the Weston side was in the vicinity of what today and for at least the past half century has been known as the "Duck Feeding Area."

A MEETING OF MOST TIMELY IMPORT SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20TH

See next page for details of the meeting and exhibits prepared for us by some of our outstanding school students to show what they've found out about our town.

"HOW WESTON'S HISTORY IS TAUGHT IN THE WESTON SCHOOLS"

A real treat is coming to us at our next members' meeting on Thursday evening, March 20th, at 8 o'clock in the Ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern. Some of our outstanding teachers and selected students will tell us how they have gone about to study the history of the town, some of the interesting information they have turned up, and how much encouragement and help they have received from the Society, and possibly suggesting ways in which we can point them to interesting facts and people of yesteryear. For example, at the high school level under the direction of fellow-member, Marylee Marsh, as their teacher and guide, students will describe the research they have done, based on Weston's tax records of the 1770's. Exhibits will supplement presentations. Limited to approximately an hour, the program will be fun and fact-packed.

We have come a long, long way since that panel discussion we had on April 12, 1966 with members of the history (Social Science) faculty. When it developed that not a single one of the teachers had grown up in Weston, it was quite understandable that our children were not getting much indoctrination into the fascinating history that is Weston's. Almost immediately our Society established a relationship that has grown closer through the years. We met the challenge of supplying them with all data we had available which, except for Lamson's History, town records, and tax lists, were not accessible in many places or as abundant as they shortly became.

Talks and walks, first with 3rd graders, grew quickly. Bus trips were conducted over the whole town for Junior High and continued into High School. Weston's own History Trail from one end of the Post Road to the other became a reality. A booklet "Windows on Weston" was published for schools, newcomers, and visitors. How proud we were of our school children during the Nation's Bicentennial and of the impressive exhibits and pagaents produced at various elementary, intermediate, Junior and Senior High and private school levels, all proving to be amazing tributes to the initiative, hard work, and enthusiasm of students and faculty in their love and respect for town and country.

Don't forget the date: March 20th and the time, 8 P.M. sharp, at the Josiah Smith Tavern. We predict it will be an eye-opener to many members and a real inspiration not to ourselves alone by any means, but especially to the school officials, student participants, and their parents and friends. With encouragement and appreciation from us, they too have "just started!"

A LETTER FROM OUR OLDEST LIVING CHARTER MEMBER

A letter from our 97 year old charter member, Mrs. Elizabeth Campbell quickly followed her receipt of our January issue that quoted a letter from her great uncle, J. F. B. Marshall, on how Kendal Green came to get its name and its spelling (one "l" please!) Her grandson, Franklin E. Campbell, Ph.D., lives on Bainbridge Island and is writing a book on her great uncle, his great, great, great uncle's life on what was then called The Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii), and . . . "he will be interested in our BULLETIN articles as we are direct descendants of Rev. Samuel Kendal. I grew up in Weston under the care of my grandmother, 'E.B.M. Knox' as she always signed her name. I was married there in 1904 to Dr. Franklin E. Campbell, U.S.N., in the house which, now the home of Theodore Rand, was formerly known as 'The Teacher's Lodge.' I never went back there to live as I 'followed the ship' as the Navy saying goes, until his resignation from the Navy to establish private practice in medicine. I spent many happy days in the home of General Marshall in Kendal Green, and I believe I am the oldest member of the Society as I was born Jan. 25, 1883. I did get out to visit my grandson two years ago and plan to visit them in April on their island. I am well mentally and physically." We salute you, Mrs. Campbell!

MORE ABOUT THE JONAS HASTINGS HOMESTEAD

Our last two issues referred to the 1884 Enneking painting of the Hastings Homestead at 199 North Avenue diagonally opposite the residence of our oldest charter member, Miss Anna Hall, recently deceased in her 102nd year. Almost immediately we were treated with an outpouring of fascinating comments, a sample of which is described below.

Shortly after she and her husband became members of our Society almost eight years ago, Dorothy Ellis joined our volunteers in assisting the Weston Historical Commission to trace the histories of old houses along the principal old roads of Weston. Her first assignment was 199 North Avenue. Later she was appointed by the Selectmen as a member of the Commission, and today is its chairman. So it is apropos to quote below an interesting deed which, among others, she submitted on June 1, 1973 to the Survey Committee.

Before doing so, we would like to quote from supplementary information she submitted with the completed standard form we all used in the giant survey that still continues. These few excerpts emphasize that there is still more "digging" to do. (One of our readers, perhaps, may want to undertake it so that we all may know more in detail about "the old house which had to be taken down before the new one could be built upon a foundation . . . to receive the sills . . .")

". . . Mary Giddings, granddaughter of Jonas Hastings, . . . recorded in 1893 that the house taken down, known as the old Budge Place, was formerly the summer residence of Deacon Samuel Barrett. Nancy Budge, an old negro slave or servant, generally referred to as Elizabeth in the town tax records, was allowed to make it her home for some years. The town voted to pay her taxes."

Now here is the *"Agreement to Build a House"* as found in the records of the Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County, Book 250, Pages 67 and 68. We consider it a significant addition to town history in general and to this picturesque section of North Avenue (Route 117).

"Jonas Hastings with Phinehas Conant, agreed.

"This indenture made on the twenty second day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand eighteen hundred and twenty-three between Phinehas Conant of Stow in the County of Middlesex, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Gentleman, of the one part and Jonas Hastings of Weston in the County and Commonwealth aforesaid, cordwainer, of the other part, witnesseth that the said Phinehas Conant for and in consideration of the Covenants and Agreements hereafter contained on the part of the said Jonas Hastings to be done, performed and paid, covenants and agrees to build a dwelling house upon a foundation or underpinning to be prepared to receive the sills by said Hastings whenever the said Conant may be ready to raise the frame where the said Hastings now lives, of the following dimensions viz. forty Feet long and eighteen feet wide, seventeen feet posts comprising two stories, with a level roof, to be boarded with straight edged board, shingled and the external far side and two ends clapboarded, the projection to be cased and water corner, weather and saddle boards one outside door and twenty one board window frames, twelve panes each 12 by 9 Boston glass to finish the east front room and chamber over the same, the lower room to be sealed as high as the bottom of the windows, doors, and cased there with a single archative, to finish the front entry and stairs and chamber entry and a bedchamber and one bedroom, the entrys, chamber and bedroom to be plastered to a mop board, the aforesaid room and entry to be finished with floors and plastering, but not to lay any other floor in the house, to finish two closets without shelves in the chamber and one in the lower room under the stairs with shelves, to have nine inside inch four panel doors, to have one chimney with three fire places and an oven to begin at the bottom of the cellar, to have the brick in the old chimney but to put new brick in the jams and top of the chimney, the said Conant to have all the boards in the old house that are suitable to shingle on or for under floors, said Conant to furnish two hands to help take down the old house, but then Hastings to board them, said Conant to furnish all the materials for the building as aforesaid, excepting hinges, latches. locks and the lead for the chimney and the expense of raising the frame, said house to be finished as aforesaid by the first day of November next ensuing the date

Continued on page 7

WESTON'S THREE RAILROADS

Brenton H. Dickson III

PART 2: THE FITCHBURG

Editor's Note: Part I of Mr. Dickson's speech at our annual meeting in the crowded ballroom of the Josiah Smith Tavern appeared in our January issue. Part 2, as promised, is printed below. The final installment, Part 3, is scheduled to appear in the May BULLETIN.

The second railroad through Weston was *The Fitchburg*. Construction began in 1843 and was completed to Fitchburg in 1845. Later, service was extended westward to Troy, New York* and northward into New Hampshire and Vermont. There were three stations in Weston: Stony Brook, Kendal Green, and Silver Hill. A fourth station - Hastings - was added when the organ factory moved in 1888 from Boston to Kendal Green.

This line boasted important trains with Pullman and dining cars. It became one of three lines operating between Boston and Montreal, and for a number of years the "Minute Man" came through town on its Boston to Chicago run.

Henry Thoreau, the author and naturalist, built a cabin on Lake Walden where he could commune with nature and record his observations. As for his opinion of the railroad, I will quote a few selected passages from his book, *"Walden"*.

"The Fitchburg Railroad," he wrote, touches the pond about a hundred yards south of where I dwell. I usually go to the village along its causeway, and am, as it were, related to society by this link. The men on the freight trains who go over the whole length of the road, bow to me as to an old acquaintance. . .The whistle of the locomotive penetrates my woods summer and winter, sounding like the scream of a hawk. . .Here come your groceries, country: your rations, countrymen! Nor is there any man so independent on his farm he can say them nay. . .Up comes the cotton, down goes the

**Vermont and Massachusetts Raiload* from Fitchburg to Greenfield; *Troy and Greenfield* from Greenfield to Troy. All three became a part of the Boston and Maine system.

8 No. 21. FITCHBURG

FITC

TIME-TABLE NO. 21, FOR EMPLOYES ONLY.
OUTWARD TRAINS ON TRUNK ROAD,
WILL RUN

STATIONS.	Ayer Junc. Ice Train.	Ice & Brick Train (Omitted Tues. on Wat.Br.)	Fitchburg Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Freight and Passenger.	Greenfield & Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Tunnel Express Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Fitchburg Local Freight.	Wat. & Wal. Freight.	Ice & Brick Train.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Fitchburg Passenger.	Fitchburg Local Freight.	Extra Through Freight.	Troy, N. Y. & Western Freight.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Marlb. Br & P. & S.R.R. Freight.	Rutl. & Bur. and C. Vt. Freight.	Tounel and Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Extra Through Freight.	Troy, N. Y. & Western Freight.	Marlb. Br. & P. & S. Br. Freight.	Troy, N. Y.
No. Train	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	17	
Leave	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	A. M.	A. M.	M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M	P. M.	P. M	P
BOSTON			6 15	B7 00	7 30	8 30	T8 35	F8 50	J	C		10 50	11 15		M		12 00		L	1 45				
Charlestown	A3 40	*4 35	6 18	7 03	7 33	8 32	8 38	8 53	‖8 55	9 05	D10 00	10 53	11 18		‖11 20	E11 40	12 02	H12 15	1 00	1 47				
Union Square		4 47	6 23	7 09			8 43	8 57			10 12	10 58					12 08							
Somerville		4 51	6 25	7 12			8 46	8 59			10 16	11 01					12 10							
Cambridge	3 59	4 55	6 28	7 15	7 40	8 37	8 49	9 02	9 14	9 25	10 20	11 04	11 25		11 39	11 59	12 14	12 29	1 19	1 52				
Wat. Junc.	4 03	*5 00	6 31	B7 18	7 42	8 38	8 52	9 04	9 18	C9 29	10 25	11 07	11 27		11 43	12 03	12 17	12 32	1 23	1 54				
Hill's Crossing			6 33					9 07																
Belmont	4 14		6 36		7 46	8 41		9 09	9 29				11 33		11 54	12 14		12 39	1 34	1 58				
Waverley			6 39	Via.				9 12					11 36							2 00				
Clematis Brook			6 42	Wat.				9 15																
Beaver Brook			6 45	Br.			Br.	9 18		Br.		Br.					Br.							
Waltham	4 31		6 48	7 45	7 54	8 48	9 16	F9 20	9 55	10 40		11 32	11 42		12 11	12 31	12 42	12 55	L1 51	2 04				
Roberts			6 52																					
Stony Brook	4 43		6 55		7 58	8 51			10 12				11 48		12 23	12 43		1 03		2 08				
Weston			6 58										11 51							2 10				
Silver Hill			7 02																					
Lincoln	5 05		7 07		8 07	8 59			10 43				12 00		12 45	1 03		1 26		2 16				
Concord	5 22		7 16		8 13	9 04			11 09				12 08		1 02	1 22		1 40		2 22				
Concord Junc.	5 34		7 21		8 17	9 08			11 27				12 13		1 14	1 34		1 51		2 27				
South Acton	6 00		7 32		8 27	9 15			11 52				12 22		1 38	1 58		2 14		2 33				
West Acton	6 09		7 36		8 30	9 18			12 05				12 26		1 47	2 07		H2 21		2 37			‖2 39	
Littleton	6 32		7 47		8 39	9 25			J12 26				12 37	‖12 40	2 09	E2 30				2 46		‖2 48	3 02	
Ayer Junc.	6 55		8 00		8 51	9 35							12 50	1 18	2 36					2 57		3 11	3 21	
Shirley			8 08		8 58	9 40							12 58	1 35	M2 52					3 04	‖3 06			
Lunenburg			8 15										1 04							3 09				
Leominster			8 23		9 10	9 51							1 12	2 14						3 16	3 35			
Fitchburg, ar.			8 34		9 21	10 00							1 22	2 41						3 25	4 00			
No. Train	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	9	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	17	

From the Collection of H. Bentley Crouch

woven cloth; up comes the silk, down goes the woolen; up come the books, but down goes the wit that writes them.

"When I meet the engine with its train of cars moving off with planetary motion . . . with its steam cloud like a banner streaming behind in golden and silver wreaths . . . when I hear the iron horse make the hills echo with his snort like thunder, shaking the earth with his feet, and breathing fire and smoke with his nostrils . . . it seems as if the earth has got a race now worthy to inhabit it . . .

"I watch the passage of the morning cars with the same feeling that I do the rising of the sun, which is hardly more regular,- Their train of clouds stretching far behind and rising higher and higher, going to heaven while the cars are going to Boston . . .

"The startings and arrivals of the cars are now the epochs in the village day. They go and come with much regularity and precision, and their whistles can be heard so far, that the farmers set their clocks by them . . . Have not men improved somewhat in punctuality since the railroad was invented? Do they not talk and think faster in the depot than they did in the stage office?

"What recommends commerce to me is its enterprise and bravery. It does not clasp its hands and pray to Jupiter . . .I am refreshed and expanded when the freight train rattles past me, and I smell the stores which go dispensing their odors all the way from Long Wharf to Lake Champlain. . .

"And hark! Here comes the cattle train bearing the cattle of a thousand hills . . . The air is filled with the bleating of calves and sheep, and the hustling of oxen as if a pastoral valley were going by . . . a carload of drovers too . . . their vocation gone, but still clinging to their useless sticks as their badge of office. But the dogs, where are they? Methinks I hear them barking behind the Peterboro hills, or panting up the western slope of the Green Mountains . . . their vocation too is gone . . . they will slink back to their kennels in disgrace, or perchance run wild and strike a league with the wolf or the fox.

"So is your pastoral life whirled past and away . . . Now that the cars are gone by and all the restless world with them, and the fishes in the pond no longer feel the rumbling, I am more alone than ever."

RAILROAD. No. 21.

DIVISION.

TO TAKE EFFECT ON MONDAY, MAY 14, 1877.
FROM BOSTON, (PASSENGER AND FREIGHT),
AS FOLLOWS:

Waltham Passenger	South Acton Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Shelburne Falls Passenger.	Waltham Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Concord Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Tunnel and Ches. R. R. Express Pass.	Waltham Passenger.	Fitchburg Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger.	Vt. & Mass. Div. & Wet'n Freight.	N.A. & B.R.R. Wor. Shirley Leom'r & Ches. R. R. Freight.	Waltham Passenger.	Wat. & Wal. Passenger. Mondays only	Wat. & Wal. Pass. Weds. & Sats. only.	Waltham Passenger. Thurs. only.					Wat., Wal. & Mayb. Pass. Sundays only	Pass. & Milk Train. Sundays only	Waltham Passenger. Sundays only
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					40	41	42
P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.					A. M.	P. M.	P. M.
2 15	2 40	3 00	4 00	4 30	x5 00	T5 10Y	5 30	s5 45	T6 00P	6 10	6 30	T6 35	z	u	7 35	9 35	11 20	11 20					9 45	1 00	5 45
2 18	2 43	3 02	4 03	4 33	5 03	5 13	5 33	5 48	6 02	6 13	6 33	6 38	‖6 42	‖6 55	7 37	9 38	11 22	11 23					9 48	1 03	5 48
2 24		3 08	4 08		5 09	5 17	5 38	5 52		6 19		6 44			7 44	9 43	11 28	11 28					9 53	1 08	5 54
2 27		3 11	4 10		5 12	5 18	5 40	5 54		6 22		6 47			7 47	9 46	11 31	11 30					9 56	1 10	5 57
2 30	2 49	3 14	4 13	4 39	5 15	5 21	5 43	5 57	6 08	6 25	6 39	6 51	6 59	7 14	7 50	9 49	11 35	11 33					9 59	1 13	6 00
2 33	2 51	3 17	4 15	4 41	5 18	5 23	5 45	s5 59	6 10	6 28	6 41	6 54	7 03	7 18	7 52	9 52	11 38	11 36					10 02	1 17	6 03
2 36			4 18		5 22		5 49			6 31					7 55			11 39							6 07
2 39	2 55		4 21	4 45	5 25		5 52		6 13	6 34	6 46		7 12	7 29	7 59			11 42							6 11
2 42	2 57		4 24	4 47	5 28		5 55		6 15	6 37	6 49				8 02			11 45							6 14
2 45			4 27		5 30					6 40					8 05			11 47							6 17
2 48		Br.	4 30		5 33	Br.	5 59	Br.		6 43		Br.			8 07	Br	Br.	11 50					Br.	Br	6 20
2 50	3 03	3 41	4 32	4 52	5 35	5 48	6 02	6 22	6 20	6 45	6 55	7 17	7 26	7 56	8 09	10 15	12 02	11 52					10 27	1 45	6 22
	3 08						6 05				6 58												10 30	1 49	
	3 10			4 59			6 08		6 24		7 01		7 36	8 08									10 33	1 52	
	3 13			5 01			6 10		6 26		7 04												10 35	1 55	
	3 17						6 14																10 39	2 00	
	3 22			5 10			6 19		6 32		7 12		7 54	8 30									10 45	2 06	
	3 30			5 17			6 26		6 39		7 20		8 08	8 47									10 54	2 18	
	3 34			5 22					6 43		7 24		8 19	9 01									10 59	2 23	
	3 41			5 31					6 48		7 34		8 39	9 24									11 10	2 35	
				5 36					6 51		7 38		8 46	9 33										2 45	
				5 46					7 00		7 48		9 03	9 56										2 57	
				6 00					7 11		7 58		9 25	10 34										3 32	
				6 08					7 19		8 06		9 39	10 56										3 41	
				6 15					7 24		8 12													3 48	
				6 23					7 33		8 20		10 03	11 30										3 57	
				6 35					7 45		8 30		10 25	11 55										4 08	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39					40	41	42

AN UNUSUAL VIEW OF THE 1757 JOSIAH SMITH TAVERN

Seven years ago while workmen were installing new shingles on the shed which is attached to the Tavern's southwest corner for storage purposes, the photographer climbed over the stone wall along the Post Road and pushed his way downhill to catch this unusual view in mid-afternoon December sunshine, of the historic building's western end (left) and its complete southern,seldom-seen side as far as, and including, the stable which is but forty feet or so from the library of which we also are so proud and grateful. It will be recalled the contribution to Weston's observance of the Nation's Bicentennial, which the Weston Community League so appropriately made when it restored the barn, stable, and shed that have been part of the Tavern for more than 2 centuries, as commended on the front page of our January 1976 issue, Vol. XII, No. 2.

Our last two issues have shown front and eastern side views of Weston's oldest downtown building. We thought this rear view would interest many.

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE NOTES

The Weston Historical Society since its inception in 1963 has been one of more than 300 local Historical Societies that have comprised the Bay State Historical League, now in its 78th year. Many of our members have also taken out individual memberships as well, not alone to support such a worthy cause, but to ensure being advised promptly through the quarterly Bulletin and the monthly League Calendar of interesting events that are taking place all over the state every month of the year.

We heartily recommend that more of you join us in this support. Regular meetings of the League are held four seasons of the year at various towns throughout all parts of the state, at which we meet kindred souls who enjoy the stimulating friendships that result from thus getting to know some very fine people who devote a good part of their time and lives to the preservation of relics and landmarks of great historic value. Also the League holds workshops of timely topics and projects almost every month. As an individual member you would get a regular notice of each with details, well in advance of the event.

It will be recalled that we ourselves were hosts to the most worthwhile meeting last April at Regis College, just 10 years following our joint sponsorship with Wayland when Stephen T. Riley, now our president, was the chief luncheon speaker. At that time he was its vice president. Later two of our members each served consecutive three-year terms as directors.

For details of membership direct from headquarters, you may call 742-7978 which seldom answers as it does not need to be regularly manned. In the event of no answer, Professor Paul Tedesco, current president, can easily be reached at 437-3302 (Northeastern University).

EDITORIAL

New Members Swell Our Ranks and We Strengthen Weston

Our list of new members keeps growing steadily. In this issue we welcome Messrs. H. Bentley Crouch and James W. Ferrelli, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Goddard, and Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Uyterhoeven. Each has already served the town conspicuously and their active support definitely strengthens our organization, bringing us closer to being the largest historical Society in the Commonwealth. If each of us would set for himself or herself an objective of securing just *one new member*, - whether family or individual, next door neighbor or friend, - we'd be surprised how appreciative practically all of them would feel to be "asked." After all, the Weston Historical Society deserves the support of every resident, bar none, - all the way from oldest inhabitant to the latest arrival.

Our out-of-town membership is close to the hundred mark. With the BULLETIN issued gratis four times yearly, former and prospective residents learn a lot about what's still happening to ensure that Weston remain what it has often been called, "the most exceptional town in New England." Most people come here for that reason. Think also of the colorful speakers we have been honored to have address us several times each year: many are nationally known specialists in their distinctive fields. Never a charge to you, except the annual Charter Anniversary Dinner which itself is partially subsidized.

You can see at the Society, at the Public Library, and in many homes, a full set of the more than five dozen separate BULLETINS that have been published since our incorporation in 1963. Here is a goldmine of Weston history. On the front of Vol. I, No. 1, our first Editorial declared . . . "Think of the history that's buried here — of the stories these old cellar holes can tell! Now, before it's too late, let us all resolve . . . to cooperate with the historian, the archivist, and the various research sub-committees in bringing back the facts and the artifacts of yesteryear. This society will be what we of today make it."

Many and gratifying as our "uncoveries" have been, it is still true that we have but scratched the surface, for the more we learn, the more we realize how much there is still to find. Each issue of the BULLETIN supplies a clue or a plea for a new and deeper search. We look to the young and to the parents of the young to supplement what so many of our older members have supplied authentically of Weston history. Let us involve youth through their parents and their inspiring teachers. As the old disappear make sure they are succeeded by the youngsters of today who have caught the fire from us, and, who as leaders of tomorrow, will work for the preservation of the Weston which has meant so much to so many. Instead of "pointing with pride", let each of us *do* a little more, however we can.

H. G. T.

More About The Jonas Hastings Homestead

Continued from page 3

hereof, in a workmanship manner of merchantable western lumber, the frame to be pine or oak timber, the said Conant to have the mantlepiece in the old chimney.-- the said Jonas Hastings agrees, covenants and promises to pay the said Conant for the said house the sum of five hundred, twenty seven dollars in the following payments, viz. two hundred dollars when the frame is raised and the remainder when the work shall be completed.--- In witness whereof the parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals the day and year first written--- Jonas Hastings, & Seal, Phinehas Conant & Seal---Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of Levi Conant, Luke Brown.

Middlesex Co. Sept. 8, 1823, Rec'd and Recorded by
Wm. F. Stone, Regr."

Editor's Note: Along the right margin on the first of the two pages, appear the following notations:

"November 21, 1823 Rec'd the contents of this contract in full"
(s) Phinehas Conant

"Middlesex s. s. February 17, 1826. Rec'd and Recorded by
(s) Wm. F. Stone, Reg."

IN MEMORIAM

It is our unhappy duty to record the passing of three outstanding members since our last issue. The deaths of Priscilla S. Dwinnell, charter and life member, former director and program chairman,- of Rev. Miles Hanson, Jr. who for 36 years was the beloved and inspiring pastor of *The First Parish in Weston*,- and of Lyman Stone Hayes, charter member and sportsman, gentleman,- public servant particularly sensitive to problems of the elderly,- followed each other in awesome succession. The Town of Weston and the Weston Historical Society never had their superiors in deep dedication to all that Weston meant to them and to us. We are grateful for their contributions, each in different ways and in somewhat different fields, but all of them genuine and generous. We shall miss them greatly and extend our deepest sympathy to their loved ones.

THREE IMPORTANT ADMONITIONS: MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

1. Keep your dues paid up. Call Treasurer Payson at 899-1802 if you want to make sure you are not overdue.
2. When your address changes, even from one part of Weston to another, be sure to notify us at Box 343, Weston, Mass. 02193.
3. It becomes more difficult all the time, due to our larger membership to make sure that the BULLETIN Editor is advised of deaths of members. This delicate detail can most easily be accomplished by notifying the treasurer also, for he not only needs the information for his own records, but he also is in constant touch with us and the mailing list company. Up to now, sometimes by accident, we believe we have heard of, and recorded in our "IN MEMORIAM" section, the deaths of all members, but with the growth of the town and of our membership, even we who consider ourselves "oldtimers" find ourselves increasingly uneasy over the possibility of "missing" someone.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

President: Stephen T. Riley
Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
Secretary: Mrs. David V. Harmon
Treasurer: Samuel R. Payson
Editor of THE BULLETIN: Harold G. Travis

SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
Gift memberships are suggested
(Currently our youngest life member is 3 - our oldest in his 80's)

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed. (It has now grown into respectable five figures, due to contributions, bequests, life memberships, and interest.)

Make all checks payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and mail them to its Post Office address: Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1.00 each by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter at 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, at 899-4515.

THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

May 1980 Vol. XVI, No. 4

Donald S. Robinson: © Boston & Maine Railroad Historical Society

The three morning commuter trains on the Central Massachusetts Branch were known somewhat irreverently to the local populace as the "Worker" (7:03 a.m.), the "Clerker" (8:02 a.m.), and the "Shirker" (8:43 a.m.). Shown here is train No. 3106, the "Shirker", leaving Tower Hill for Weston in the spring of 1956 during the last month of steam operation on the branch.

See page 4 for continuation of Weston's Three Railroads.

ANNUAL CHARTER ANNIVERSARY DINNER DELIGHTFUL TRADITION

HIGH POINT OF THE YEAR'S CALENDAR

Wednesday evening, May 28th, is the date for our annual Charter Anniversary Dinner in the attractive and spacious Undercroft of St. Peter's Episcopal Church which faces Children's Park at the junction of the old Boston Post Road and the Route 20 By-Pass. The ample parking space and "no stairs to climb" provides an ideal setting for this always gala occasion.

The Directors have voted to defy higher costs by setting the same price as last year's. Headed by Mrs. George J. Pink, a large committee has arranged for the *Sherry Hour* to

(Continued on page 2)

commence promptly at 6:30. A buffet dinner, delicious and sumptuous as always, will be served at 7:15. Be sure to come early. Invite guests to join you, letting them see, hear, and feel for themselves how worthwhile and entertaining are the programs we have increasingly enjoyed these past 17 years. Members, young and old, proud of Weston and anxious to preserve its character, charm, and unique heritage, have worked together happily and productively in supporting our many projects.

Our featured speaker, Frederick S. Allis, Jr. - recently retired head of Phillips Academy's History Department at Andover, has aptly chosen "From Calvinism to Coeducation" as his topic. During his 40 year career as a member of its faculty, this popular speaker acquired an unmatched background for the scope his subject embraces. In 1964 Yale University awarded him its prize for Distinguished Teaching. A year later he received an honorary L.H.D. from his Alma Mater, Amherst. Author of many articles and books on historic topics, he is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Society and occupies a prominent position in the Colonial Society of Massachusetts. Those who know him promise us unhesitatingly a treat that we'll enjoy and long remember.

Please be sure to complete the reservation form and enclose your check in the envelope accompanying this BULLETIN. To help ensure that you and your party are accommodated, a reservation form is available in the envelope you will find enclosed for that purpose as an adjunct to this BULLETIN. We promise you a happy occasion: one that is truly "WESTON AT ITS BEST".

THE "BLAKE PAPERS"

At the beginning of our eventful March 20th meeting, Mr. Riley made an announcement which proved to be an amazing revelation to most of our large audience. He told of certain precious papers given from Weston to the Massachusetts Historical Society during his long career as its Director. At our request, he has handed us descriptive entries that are to be found in "M. H. S. Proceedings," as follows:

Nov. 1961

"From Mrs. Stephen S. Fitzgerald of Weston, the diaries of her father, Francis Blake, the inventor of the Blake transmitter, 1866-1913, and the records of the '95 Sewing Circle."

May 9, 1963

"From Mrs. Stephen S. Fitzgerald of Weston, twelve additional volumes of the diary of her father, Francis Blake, the inventor of the telephone transmitter. The diary, now complete, extends from 1866 through 1913."

May 14, 1964

"From the descendants of Francis Blake (1850-1913), of Weston, his personal papers, 1866-1912, in 132 volumes. Blake, an inventor and physicist, is best known for his telephone transmitting instrument, which was purchased by the Bell Telephone Company and was a major factor in its success."

For untold years to come, this collection will, without question, be a goldmine of information for historians with various interests and objectives. The discoveries that lie latent in these volumes defy our imagination and cannot be predicted. Suffice it to say that Weston particularly should be thankful that this precious material is in such good hands. When the justly famous Blake Estate* was about to pass from the scene in the early 1960's, it was the family's confidence in "Steve" Riley and the great institution he so ably directed which led them without hesitancy to respond to his assurances.

We of the Weston Historical Society can especially be proud that Mrs. Fitzgerald was, until her death, one of the original life members to give us her generous support and encouragement. She helped get us off to a flying start and imbued many of us with a determination to "carry on". Equally can we be thankful that hardly more than a mile away lived the director of the Massachusetts Historical Society, now our own inspiring president.

*See Brenton H. Dickson's article *"Keewaydin and the Telephone"*, Pages 3 and 4, Weston Historical Society BULLETIN, October 1966, Vol. III, No. 1.

WESTON HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY STUDENTS MADE MOST IMPRESSIVE PRESENTATION

The March 20, 1980 meeting of the Weston Historical Society at the Josiah Smith Tavern featured the cream of Mrs. Marylee Marsh's crop of history students from Weston High School. All presented their own research into our town's early 1770's history. Five members of the Sophomore Class with the serious mien of scholars *in spe* (not one of them in blue jeans and teeshirt!), acquitted themselves splendidly. Content and delivery were on high level.

For posterity, let it be recorded here that they were:

Audrey Epstein, speaking on the "Weston Tax Lists of 1771";
Barry Albert, "An Analysis of the Weston Economy in 1771";
Marcy Sandler, "Weston Town Records";
Steve Rossiter, "Elisha Jones and William Upham"; and
Douglas Linde, "Samuel Phillips Savage and Captain Bradyll Smith".

Chief congratulations go to their teacher, Mrs. Marsh, for her time and energy, her dedications and her talents, for guiding her students capably through this annual project. We strongly urge that she collect these reports and file them each year with the Society.

An additional comment illuminates the healthy relations between "town and gown" and the interest our school representatives take in local history. Present were also Dr. Donald G. Kennedy, assistant to the Superintendent of Schools, who has been working with students on Weston history for many years, and introduced the evening's program; Mr. John Williams, Head of the History Department; and Mr. Daniel S. Cheever, our Superintendent of Schools.

It has long been the policy of our society to encourage young people to dig into Weston's history. For many years former Society president Harold G. Travis conducted tours of historical sites for the children in our schools. The historical map and several publications are not merely helpful aids but treasure troves that yield valuable finds.

Historical research can take various forms. The little exhibit that formed the background of the presentation included a large quilt with patriotic motifs stitched by fifth grade students, and a truly exquisite series of photographs of Weston homes and historic sites taken by ninth grader Christie Kennedy.

Most of all, the evening was a heartwarming happening because it presented us with the fait accompli that young people *are* interested in the roots of our town not only when swept by the temporary wave of enthusiasm connected with the Bicentennial, but also afterwards. This is an encouraging sign for all of us in Weston.

Dr. Vera Laska

A MOST APPROPRIATE GIFT

At the close of last March's meeting, we were delighted when fellow member, Gilbert Upham, who grew up in Weston, served as Superintendent of Streets for over a quarter century until his retirement, and now lives in Barre, presented in behalf of his aunt, Anna Upham and himself, an old paper, handwritten on both sides, which listed with the subjects they were taking, the names of the 50 "scholars", aged 4 to 18, of the Southwest School during the 15 week term held in the winter of 1837-38. Obviously it was compiled by the teacher who modestly did not identify herself. Who can find out what her name was?

An equally significant part of the gift is the frame which Mr. Upham made for it. When Weston's world-famous Hook and Hastings Organ Factory was demolished in 1936, Mr. Upham alertly salvaged the unused bellows which careless wreckers were throwing into a trash pile on the site of the present dump. In that day, the town had two other dumps for local convenience — one on South Avenue and another on Ash Street. The organ bellows (we have one on display in our rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern) were made from the beautiful wood of the tulip tree. The frame has been very cleverly fashioned from it. Coming at the close of such an outstanding program by *today's* local "scholars", this gift was most fitting and timely.

WESTON'S THREE RAILROADS

Brenton H. Dickson III

PART 2: THE FITCHBURG

(Continued from last issue)

In extending the line through to Troy, N.Y. (Troy and Greenfield Railroad) one of the big accomplishments was the "Great Bore" or Hoosac Tunnel, four and three-quarters miles long and for many years, the longest tunnel in the country.

The original estimates fell short of what the tunnel actually cost, but after 20 years of political haggling and endless litigation it was finally completed. At one point, when frustration was at its height, a skeptic remarked that he knew how to finish the tunnel in no time — "just put a group of lawyers at one end and a large fee at the other."

An interesting event occurred in Weston in 1908 when the MacCausland barn on Viles Street caught fire. The fire department connected a hose to the Hastings reservoir and laid it across the Fitchburg tracks, but as they approached the burning structure they realized that they couldn't get close enough without another length or so. But it didn't matter. A train came along about then and cut the hose in two.

Now, returning to Henry Thoreau for a moment, I would like to read you a few lines written by Frank Hatch, Senior, sometimes known as Boston's Poet Laureate.

Henry Thoreau - Harvard man
Found a philosophy of life.
Lived in a cabin with a frying pan,
Never found the need for a wife.
Love in nature gathered round him-
Henry still was unimpressed.
Women's fetters never bound him,
Life without petticoats seemed best.
Henry Thoreau never fell for a blonde -
Henry Thoreau fell in love with a pond.

PART 3: CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Weston's third railroad, the Central Massachusetts, in its early days was referred to as the "Boston to Nowhere". It was my favorite and far and away the most informal of Weston's three lines. Originally planned as a line connecting Boston with Northampton, it was beset with serious financial difficulties from the day it was born. Grading began in 1871 and after ten years of work and the expenditure of millions of dollars, less than fifty miles of track had been laid. After two more years, money problems became so acute that the bondholders foreclosed and service came to a standstill. Over the next two years, trees grew in the neglected roadbed while erosion from melting snow and heavy rains played havoc with the grading.

Finally an agreement was made in 1885 with the Boston and Lowell to complete the line to Northampton. Service was first resumed to Hudson, and on September 28, 1885, my father made the following entry in his diary: "I went in on the 7:30 train from Cherry Brook. It was the first train on this railroad for more than two years. Mr. Merriam gave the conductor a watermelon and Jessie gave him some flowers." Mr. Merriam owned a large farm at the junction of Merriam Street and Concord Road. Jessie was his daughter.

Service was opened to Northampton in 1887. For about three years (1890-93) two important trains passed through Weston on the Central Massachusetts line. One of them, with sleeping cars and dining car, went from Boston to Harrisburg, Pa. and the other with parlor cars and a diner went from Boston to Washington, D.C. They crossed the Hudson River on a bridge at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Any crossing downstream from there had to be made by ferry as there were no other bridges or tunnels under the harbor at that time.

As far back as I can remember my father commuted on the Central Massachusetts

daily. When I was first married I lived in Wayland and also used this line daily; then when I moved back to Weston I often walked down to Tower Hill Station from my house on Love Lane. As I walked I knew just where I had to be at certain times. I could hear the distant whistle of the train as it approached various grade crossings, and could gauge my position with each blowing.

It was a pleasant 18 minute walk in the early 1930s and mostly downhill. There was very little traffic on the Post Road and practically none on side roads — no bumper to bumper stuff that characterizes the Post Road rush hours today, and no disagreeable fumes from roaring motor cars hurrying to and from the Raytheon plant in Wayland and other industrial establishments beyond.

The Central Massachusetts was patronized by the same people day after day. If you forgot your ticket the conductor would let you bring it to him the following morning. The three morning trains left Weston at 7:03, 8:02, and 8:43 and were known respectively as the "Workers", the "Clerkers" and the "Shirkers".

There were several unforgettable characters on the 8:02 o'clock train, one of them being my Uncle Ned Bennett who commuted from Tower Hill. Once aboard the train he would walk from one seat to another to converse with his various friends. One morning the conductor was heard to remark: "I don't charge Mr. Bennett any fare. He walks all the way to Boston."

On holiday eves, decorations appropriate to the season were attached to the cow-catcher — lilacs in the springtime, goldenrod in the autumn, a pumpkin on Hallowween and evergreen boughs at Christmas.

The earliest conductor I can remember was Mr. Wheelock. He lived in Lancaster and had an incubator in his cellar where he raised chickens for us. On the appropriate day he would bring the baby chicks in the baggage car and deliver them to us at Weston Station.

One of the unforgettable early station agents was Bert Giles, a short wirey man who always seemed to be in a hurry. I never remember seeing him walk leisurely; he was more like a jogger. This could well be accounted for by his moonlighting during off hours to make extra money to fulfill his life's great ambition — a trip to the Oberamegau Passion Play in Southern Austria. When he had finally saved enough money he went.

No description of Weston Station would be complete without a story or two about P. J. McAuliffe who ran a livery stable nearby. He began with horse drawn vehicles and later converted to gasoline taxis. In the days when I was a chain smoker my wife's stock remark, when entering our autombiles, was "Phew - this smells just like one of McAuliffe's Taxis!" Now that I no longer smoke I can appreciate how she must have felt.

P. J. McAuliffe for many years was the chief of police and he was known and respected by everyone in town. He also had the town's only gasoline pump. Late one night an automobilist stopped at the pump and blew his horn . . . Pat stuck his head out the window and asked him what he wanted. "Gasoline," was the reply.

"Wait a minute and I'll put on some clothes and come down," said Pat.

When he had unlocked the pump and taken the hose out he asked, "How many gallons do you want?"

"How far is it to Wellesley?" the driver asked.

"Six miles," said Pat.

"Then just put in one gallon. I'll get her filled in Wellesley in the morning."

"You've woken me up," said Pat, "and I've got dressed and come down here and I'm not selling you any one gallon. Either you take a full tank or you can walk to Wellesley."

"I've a right to buy as little or as much as I wish," replied the indignant driver. "You put one gallon in that tank or I'll call the police."

"I am the Police," said Pat, gently.

At one time a school teacher complained bitterly to Pat about the bad language his son was using in class.

"Bad language?" Pat asked.

"Yes — really bad. It gets embarrassing."

Pat thought a moment, then replied, "I'm G-- D----- if I know where he gets it from."

IN MEMORIAM

Since our last issue, death has claimed another charter member, Mrs. Lyndall F. Carter, whose "spirit of steel" had for years surmounted handicaps of sight, hearing, and heart. An inveterate reader, world traveler, active in many specialized ways, she earned the admiration and affection of all who knew her.

THE LAW OFFICE GARDEN: "A LIVING MEMORIAL"

Now in its 12th year, with daffodils, tall blue grape hyacinths, and other spring flowers radiantly in bloom, our little gem that's hidden from the street in the back lawn of Isaac Fiske's 1805 law office, is again proving to be "A LIVING MEMORIAL TO WESTON'S CIVIC SPIRIT." (Page 2, October 1979 *BULLETIN* Vol. XVI, No. 4)

The same article lauded Mrs. William (Mary Redfield) McElwain for having led a few neighbors to help Mr. and Mrs. Leander Rafuse, charter members, in battling ambitious and greedy weeds. The death of Mrs. McElwain on April 26th is a great loss to the entire community. Our sympathy goes out to the members of her family who will continue to share her appreciation of nature in all its forms of beauty, charm, and utility.

To help Mr. and Mrs. Rafuse keep this truly *memorial* garden "a thing of beauty and a joy forever", call them at 899-5930. They and we who are now too old will appreciate your cooperation in making it spic and span by at least our traditional "open house" on Memorial Day, and in seeing that through summer and fall by an hour or two of watering and weeding, it perpetuates the spirit which motivated Weston's three garden clubs to conceive and plant it as a joint civic project a dozen years ago.

ONE OF OUR FIRST "FOREIGN AID" PROGRAMS

Just before our February 28, 1980 meeting at Spellman Philatelic Museum, our scheduled speaker temporarily lost his voice, but our president "Steve" Riley came to the rescue and regaled the assembled members with a gem from the rich reservoir of his research. It dealt with the *"Jamestown Voyage,"* a paper he had presented a few years ago at the Boston Rotary Club. The *Jamestown* was Boston's CARE ship sending aid to the starving people of Ireland at the height of the famine in 1847.

There had been potato famines before and after the 1840's in Ireland; there have been potato famines also on the European continent; but none as severe as the one following the crop failures in Ireland in 1846 and 1847. The reasons for this were the high birthrate of the Irish (one source claims a total population in Ireland of nine million people, a number never reached since), and the fungus that destroyed many crops including seed potatoes, the major food source of the Irish in those years.

Ships importing timber to the British Isles brought emigrants to the new world with passage as low as 2-3 pounds per person. In 1847 alone 100,000 Irish migrated to America. 17,000 died at sea.

The Irish were received in America with less than open arms; they were considered cheap competition for American labor.

Boston people met at Faneuil Hall on February, 1847 and decided to petition Congress for a ship to take food and clothing to Ireland. The petition was granted and on St. Patrick's Day the *Jamestown*, Captain Robert Forbes commanding, started loading casks and bales containing food and clothing worth close to $36,000. Accompanied by cheers, the ship sailed on March 28, arriving at Cork on April 12, 1847 "without having lost a rope yarn."

Captain Forbes was wined and dined with traditional Irish hospitality (no doubt with victuals from his ship). Poems were hastily written in his and his country's praise. Aboard ship, he gave a farewell party of bread, gingerbread, and iced lemonade "with a little sprinkling of champagne." The *Jamestown* sailed immediately after this party and anchored off Charlestown May 16th, thus completing one of the first foreign aid campaigns in our country's history.

V.L.

MISCELLANY FOUND AMONG OLD TOWN RECORDS
by members of Weston Historical Commission

". . . To Be Used in the Arts . . ."

"This certifies that we the subscribers selectmen of the town of Weston have this day appointed Joel Upham as agent for the purchase of spirituous & intoxicating liquors to be used in the arts, or Medicinal, Chemical & Mechanical purposes only, & also to sell the same for such purposes, and no other as the law directs, to be kept & sold at his present dwelling house in Weston.

"Given under our hands this the 19 day of June 1855

(s)	Nathan Barker	Selectmen
	Luther S. Upham	of
	Edward Coburn	Weston

SAVE YOUR BULLETINS: *Old Ones are Scarce*

Space is so precious that the editor's task is considerably expedited and simplified when he saves words by feasible reference to past issues. Increasingly it grows evident too that welcome but unnecessary calls are for information already in the BULLETIN but obviously forgotten. The Society of course keeps a complete file of all issues to date — so far numbering 64 — that, beginning in October 1964, have appeared every January, March, May, and October. These are kept untouched in the vault at headquarters, and also in the Society's room in the Josiah Smith Tavern, open Wednesday afternoons and other times by appointment. The Town Library is making a most conscientious effort also to keep a complete supply readily available to researchers and all interested citizens, young and old.

We still feel handicapped increasingly by the lack of an index that with each issue would become more useful and valuable. We know the project has been started but we are convinced that it has become more than "a one man's (or woman's) job". If more and more qualified Weston citizens, whether members or not, would be willing, under skilled direction, to lend a hand, we would be most grateful and so would countless students of history in the future. Single-handed, it's a colossal job but if a dozen or so people would be willing to take, say, six issues apiece, how wonderfully helpful it would prove to be in Weston's unlimited future!

On a final note, we must add that the scarcity of extra BULLETINS of the 1960's is about to become a problem. We are steadily asked, and will continue to be asked, by researchers from all parts of the country for material that appeared in several of our articles. Rather than send Xeroxed copies, it would be preferable, both to them and to us, if we were able to send them a bonafide copy of an original BULLETIN, hence if by any chance or through a space problem, you no longer have use for BULLETINS of that period (or later, for that matter), please know that our Society would welcome them with open arms. Bring them to our rooms at the Josiah Smith Tavern any Wednesday afternoon, or call either the Editor at 899-4515 or Mrs. Paynter, 899-3533.

TWO SPECIAL REMINDERS

If you have moved, even from one Weston location to another, have you notified us in writing? If not, please do so in order to ensure your receipt of the BULLETIN and other Society mailings.

Have *YOU* secured *your* new member yet? Though our Society is one of the largest in the Commonwealth, we nevertheless are anxious to double our numbers, and would like to have the support of *every* Weston resident. This issue, like its predecessors, teems with examples of the resources and the resourcefulness of our unusual community. A yearly membership entered today will last through August 1981.

Life membership saves annual dues forever.

NEW MEMBERS

We are proud to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. John F. Condakes, Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Robinson, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Weaver, Jr., all well-known Weston leaders, and to Jeffrey T. Lawson of Westborough. Mr. Lawson, a native of Weston, is the son of our fellow members, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph T. Lawson. This latest evidence that our young people are interested in Weston and devoted to the preservation of its traditional assets should inspire us all.

Fellow member, Dr. Vera Laska, chairman of the Social Science Division, Regis College, has become our newest life member! Coming to Weston more than a dozen years ago, she threw herself wholeheartedly into joining town and gown together not merely by becoming a member of our society. In addition she stimulated her students to supply assistance in long-neglected local research.

An example of the latter is the *"Index to Lamson's History"* compiled by one of her students. We thank Dr. Laska for her spirit of spontaneous involvement as portrayed as recently as the present issue in which she has written articles which review the programs of our February and March meetings.

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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Vice President: Mrs. Reginald B. Elwell
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SCHEDULE OF DUES

Annual: $5 per person: $8 per family including children under 21
Life: $250 per person
Gift memberships are suggested
(Currently our youngest life member is 3 - our oldest in his 80's)

Contributions and Bequests to the Endowment and Memorial Fund are welcomed. (It has now grown into respectable five figures, due to contributions, bequests, life memberships, and interest.)

Make all checks payable to Weston Historical Society, Inc., and mail them to its Post Office address: Box 343, Weston, Massachusetts 02193.

Additional copies of THE BULLETIN may be obtained at $1.00 each by phoning Mrs. Raymond Paynter at 899-3533, or Harold G. Travis, Editor, at 899-4515. If you have any old copies of the 1960's, and are not saving them, please be sure to give them to our Curator, Mrs. J. E. Fraser, 894-2872.